

The Senate's moderate middle prevails  
But some antigay judges still expected to  
get lifetime appointments to federal bench.

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GenderPAC turns 10  
Bullying, gender differences  
explored at conference.

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'Mysterious Skin'  
Gregg Araki tackles  
Scott Heim's novel.  
see Arts section



# BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

## Serosorters reduce HIV transmission, study finds

by Matthew S. Bajko

A study of the sexual habits of HIV-positive men suggests that the men's sexual practices are contributing to reduced risk of HIV transmission.

Data culled from the Positive Partners Study is leading researchers at the J. David Gladstone Institutes to conclude that HIV-positive men are reducing their risk of spreading HIV to negative men by choosing to have high-risk sex with other HIV-positive men. Called serosorting, when gay men opt to have sex only with men of the same HIV status, the practice seems to be a growing trend within San Francisco's HIV-positive community.

"HIV-positive men who have sex with men reduce the risk of infecting their partners by serosorting," said Jeff McConnell, director of the Positive Partners Study, who presented the study results for the first time to the community during a forum for HIV positive men at Magnet Tuesday, May 17. "The longer people are positive the better they get at it. In San Francisco we see increasing amounts of serosorting."

Serosorters could explain why the city has the highest per capita rates of syphilis of any city in America yet its HIV rate is stable. While HIV-positive serosorters are keeping the HIV rates down by limiting transmission of the virus to negative men, they are putting themselves at higher risks for other STDs by not using condoms—a practice known as barebacking—with their partners. Nearly 60 percent of the city's syphilis cases continue to be among HIV-positive men, a trend seen over the last several years.

Serosorting could also help explain why the same dire predictions that high rates of syphilis would result in higher HIV rates have not panned out, much like health officials' concerns that speed use within the gay community will lead to higher HIV rates. While gay men's crystal meth use likely accounts for some new HIV infections, the city has yet to see a spike in its HIV rates. If so-called party-and-players—men using crystal during sex—are serosorting it would limit the chances of HIV transmission during high-risk sex sessions fueled by meth.

While McConnell said the data does point to those conclusions, he added that more studies need to be done on serosorting and its effectiveness before definitive answers can be found.

"Our data is not a representative sample. It is hard to tell how widespread it is and how it is impacting the epidemic," he said.

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## State Supreme Court hears gay parenting cases

by Matthew S. Bajko

Hearing oral arguments in three same-sex child custody cases Tuesday, May 24, California's Supreme Court justices seemed ready to extend the same parental rights afforded heterosexual parents to gay and lesbian parents.

During more than three hours of testimony the justices repeatedly stressed the importance of children having two supportive parents in their lives and seemed reluctant to narrowly define a family structure as being created by a mother and a father.

A decision is expected later this summer. Pointing to scientific breakthroughs in artificial insemination, Justice Kathryn Werdegar noted that, "due to biological advances a child can have two mothers."

And Justice Joyce Kennard at one point stated, "The court is quite concerned about the public policy at issue. It is important as much as possible to give the child two par-

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Emily B. outside the California Supreme Court Tuesday with photos of her children, Kaia and Ry.

## Lyon-Martin gets new exec. director

by Zak Szymanski

Fresh from New Mexico, Gloria Nieto has returned to her home state of California as the new executive director of Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services.

Nieto, 50, began her position earlier this month at an annual salary of \$75,000. A Latina lesbian, she spent the last eight years as executive director of the People of Color AIDS Foundation in Santa Fe, and prior to that was the director of the Familia Center of Santa Cruz, California. She is a founding member of WomanCare, a women's cancer project in Santa Cruz; sits on the board of the National LGBT Health Coalition; and was the first and only Latina lesbian to address the Democratic National Convention.

Being back in California, she said, "is like coming out all over again. I feel so liberated. ... I'm thrilled about being here and being able to gobble up more life."

Particularly attractive to Nieto is the diversity of the community she serves, a multiracial population that includes people who self-identify as lesbians, dykes, bisexuals, queers, and transgenders, all with their own set of needs.

While in New Mexico, Nieto served as a lobbyist for the passage of the state's transgender-inclusive nondiscrimination and hate crimes bills, and worked with legislators and community members to ensure that the entire LGBT community was protected, she said.

"I want people in the transgender community to know they have one of the best allies in the country in this office right now with open arms saying, 'Come on down,'" Nieto told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

In addition to maintaining the clinic's extensive transgender services, Nieto said she has a special commitment to the needs of senior lesbians, as well as people with HIV. Lyon-Martin's HIV-positive population is rather small in comparison to other city clinics, but



Gloria Nieto, Lyon-Martin's new director.

"I've been doing AIDS work since 1986 and I'm not just dropping it," she said. "I haven't yet assessed what that population looks like here but we'll be talking about how to meet the needs of a broader spectrum of people."

Targeting the clinic's core population was one source of some recent trouble at the clinic, which eventually led to the departure of its medical director, nurse practitioner, and most of its staff at the end of 2004. As a result, the clinic was closed for medical care for three months, and its previous executive director, Doretha Williams-Flournoy, left her position in February as part of an agreement with the board of directors.

Former medical staff told the *B.A.R.* that they believed funding should be secured for patients who did not have the ability to pay for their services, but it was their impression that the clinic was focusing its efforts on at-

tracting wealthier and/or insured clients. Additionally, they said, a disproportionate amount of the clinic's budget was coming from HIV-related contracts, which served about 5 percent of its clientele and was money that could not be used toward other services. Lyon-Martin—named for lesbian pioneers Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin—was founded in 1979 to serve the health needs of lesbian and bisexual women. Its mission expanded during the 1980s to meet the needs of all low-income, medically underserved women, and it began offering HIV services in 1993.

Accommodating all clients is a goal of Nieto's, she said, and she plans on having a variety of meetings and discussions about how best to serve the community.

"I'm looking forward to meeting with everyone and figuring out where we all work together," she said.

Since the recent shake-up at the clinic, temporary medical personnel have filled the gaps, while community members have rallied around the historic institution, with a May 6 fundraiser featuring cast members of the *L Word* bringing in \$43,000.

"Everything is still in flux, but that's the nature of nonprofits. Something is changing all the time, and it's a matter of being able to think quickly on one's feet and respond appropriately," said Nieto, who emphasized that Lyon-Martin is "not going anywhere." "The clinic has been here for 25 years and I feel like we have a good amount of community support and I'm going to capitalize on that," she said. "I owe that to Del and Phyllis. And I owe that to my 17-year-old lesbian niece."

Nieto said that her first several days on the job have proved to be in an "overwhelmingly supportive environment," and being at a "prestigious, historically relevant organization" was an opportunity she couldn't resist.

"There's 25 years of solid work here to build on," said Nieto. "I'm excited to be able to do that." ▼

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**The UPS Store**

# HIV+ man wins suit against CVS pharmacy

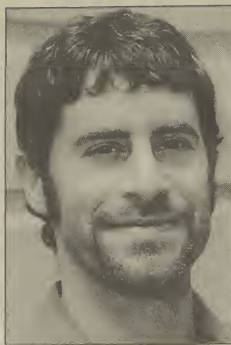
by Zak Szymanski

**P**roCare Pharmacy – now known as PharmaCare, an HIV/AIDS specialty store on Castro Street owned by CVS – wrongly refused to accommodate its former employee's HIV/AIDS-related medical needs, a San Francisco Superior Court jury found last month.

The jury awarded nearly \$277,000 to Gregory Daniels, a former manager of the store who claimed that CVS had failed to provide him with the reduced schedule he needed to take care of his health.

Daniels, 35, was the most senior staff member in the store and worked there from April 2000 until June 2003. He told the *Bay Area Reporter* that his most recent management team refused to give him reduced hours, making it difficult for him to get enough rest and make it to his medical appointments without sacrificing his job.

"They harassed me over the amount of time off that I needed," said Daniels. "They were making it really hard for me and weren't



Plaintiff Gregory Daniels

letting me go to the doctor."

Daniels said that eventually he felt pressured to choose between his health and his job.

"The people they serve are HIV-positive people, so it just blew my mind," he said.

The jury in the case found that CVS refused to provide Daniels with the necessary paperwork to get a reduction in his workweek schedule and concluded that he was forced to resign to protect his

health. Daniels said that the period of unemployment that followed was a tremendous hardship, and he lost his wages, insurance, and his apartment.

After he left his job at ProCare, Daniels found himself at a seminar sponsored by the Positive Resource Center in conjunction with the San Francisco Human Rights Commission that addressed the rights of HIV-positive people in the workplace beyond the Family Medical Leave Act.

"It was then that I realized all the laws that CVS had blatantly blown to hell," he said.

PRC and HRC worked in conjunction with the AIDS Legal Referral Panel to help Daniels, who was referred to ALRP panel attorney Barry Willdorf.

Willdorf and co-counsel Laura Stevens handled the case on a contingency fee basis, spending two years and more than \$40,000 of their own money, according to a press release from ALRP.

"We are very pleased with the outcome," said a statement from Willdorf. "People in California don't realize that our state employment discrimination law is broad-

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## ADAP receives funding boost

by Matthew S. Bajko

**T**he state's AIDS Drug Assistance Program is set to receive another infusion of cash under the governor's revised 2005-2006 budget proposals. Due to increased rebate revenues, ADAP will see an increase of \$4.7 million.

The additional funds bring the program's total budget to \$268.3 million for the fiscal year starting July 1. Originally, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger had proposed a \$263.6 million budget for

ADAP, a \$29.4 million increase from fiscal year 2004-2005.

ADAP provides a range of HIV-medications to approximately 30,000 low-income Californians, most of whom are severely economically disadvantaged. Without ADAP, HIV medications – which can cost between \$10,000 and \$15,000 per year – would be out of reach for hundreds of low income Californians.

The Department of Finance found the increased funding after it upgraded the state Office of AIDS' estimates on rebate revenue ADAP receives from pharmaceutical companies. The AIDS office had initially estimated that ADAP would receive an additional \$8.8 million in rebate revenues.

Under state law, the rebate funds must go to ADAP, but the governor could have decreased a similar amount in general funds

for the program. AIDS advocates praised Schwarzenegger for opting against such an action. The state general fund will provide an additional \$20.6 million to the program.

"We are happy about that," said Dana Van Gorder, director of state and local affairs at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Full funding for ADAP is a reversal of the last two years, when the program was initially underfunded. Last year, AIDS patients and their advocates rallied at the Capitol to fight a proposed ADAP waiting list and for increased funding to the program. In 2003, then-Governor Gray Davis initially underfunded the program and proposed co-payments for people in ADAP. Both years Democrats in the Legislature and AIDS groups successfully beat back the proposals. ▼

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# Speaking out for marriage



Bill Wilson

Lancy Woo, left, and Cristy Chung were special guests at the annual "Lambda at the Legion" benefit for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, held at the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco May 19. Woo and Chung are lead plaintiffs in one of the San Francisco marriage cases that is making its way to the state Supreme Court. A Superior Court judge ruled in March that the state's marriage laws are unconstitutional, but the case will be appealed. Lambda Legal is assisting the ACLU, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, and other attorneys in the cases.

# GLAAD moves awards

by Matthew S. Bajko

Faced with mounting community and political pressure to move its media awards out of the Westin St. Francis, one of 14 hotels being boycotted due to a labor dispute, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation is moving the event to Fort Mason Center.

GLAAD's executive committee made the decision Monday, May 23 and announced it in an open letter to supporters on Tuesday. The move comes less than three weeks before the annual fundraiser, to be held this year on Saturday, June 11.

"By moving the 2005 Media Awards to a neutral site, we believe we are acting in the best interests of the larger community," states the letter, signed by GLAAD Executive Director Joan Garry.

Members of the hotel workers' union, Unite Here Local 2, which has been fighting for a new labor contract since last year, praised the gay media watchdog group for moving its event.

"Obviously, we are so happy they have done this and are standing shoulder to shoulder with us,"

said Kelly Dugan, who is organizing the union's boycott of the hotels.

Bruce Patterson, an openly gay member of Local 2, added, "I am just very pleased. No pun intended, but I am very glad to hear about it. It is nice to see organizations like that do the right thing. This is a wonderful day."

Numerous local gay rights groups have endorsed the union's boycott and have joined with Mayor Gavin Newsom in avoiding the targeted hotels until a contract is signed. Negotiations had stalled between management and the union, but new mediation talks are scheduled for next week.

When initially contacted by the union and its supporters, GLAAD indicated in a letter that it could not afford to cancel its contract with the St. Francis, and finding a new space would be problematic for the event due to its size. In response, leaders within the gay community, as well as three of the city's state legislators, signed on to a letter asking GLAAD to leave the St. Francis.

When contacted by the Bay Area Reporter earlier this month, GLAAD changed course and said all options were on the table. Both

Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) and Supervisor Bevan Dufty called GLAAD leaders to stress how important it was for the agency to relocate the media awards.

Labor activist Robert Haaland, who spearheaded the letter campaign to GLAAD, said the agency had taken a "a remarkable step" and thanked it for its "extraordinary leadership." Haaland also urged the LGBT community "to show support for strong leadership from GLAAD by attending their dinner or by becoming a member of GLAAD."

In its letter this week, the organization stressed that it had no way of knowing when it picked the hotel last August as the site of the media awards that the labor dispute would be ongoing.

"As the year progressed, we remained hopeful that contract negotiations would produce an equitable solution and spare us the extraordinary hardships of relocating such a complex event. From the moment it became certain that the workers' contract negotiations had reached an impasse and were unlikely to be resolved before our June 11 event, we

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# EQCA benefit tonight

compiled by Cynthia Laird

The Artfull Circle Theatre and Metro City bar are teaming up to host a benefit for Equality California tonight (Thursday, May 26) starting at 8:30 p.m. at the bar, located at Market and 16th streets in San Francisco. Dubbed "Sordid LIVE!" the event is a *Sordid Lives* look-a-like contest and people are encouraged to come as their favorite character from the movie, a self-described "black comedy about white trash." The benefit is being hosted by Sister Bella de Ball with Mark Sargent, Trauma Flintstone, Deana Dawn, N. Sr. Holly Lewya, and other special guests.

There is no cover charge, said Mark Winchester, but organizers are encouraging people to buy \$1 raffle tickets. Prizes include posters and DVDs signed by Del Shores and other items. There also will be prizes for the look-a-like contest.

EQCA is a statewide LGBT lobbying group that has worked on numerous legislative proposals and has been a leader in the fight for marriage equality.

### 'Shop for a Cure'

Memorial Day weekend is approaching and that means it's time for Under One Roof's annual "Shop For A Cure" holiday sale. Executive Director Mike Marshall noted that the Castro gift store that sells merchandise on behalf of various AIDS service organizations is taking up to 50 percent off selected items this weekend to make room for new inventory.

Under One Roof has collected in-kind donations of sale items from local and national manufacturers, including OLY Studio vases, candle holders, and chairs and pillows. Additional discounted merchandise includes

Stonewall Kitchen gourmet food, Votive lotions and soaps, and products from Chronicle Books, Gianna Rose, and Wingard, Martin & Barnett.

Store hours this weekend are: Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Monday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Under One Roof is located at 549 Castro Street.

For more information, call (415) 503-2310 or visit [www.underoneroof.org](http://www.underoneroof.org).

### GAWK turns 20



The Gay Artists and Writers' Collective turns 20 this year, and founder Jon Sugar invites interested people to attend the group's upcoming activities. GAWK is a loosely connected social group that is open to

singers, comics, songwriters, and others. GAWK's next events both take place at 7 p.m. at Magnet, the gay men's health clinic in the Castro, 4122 18th Street. The first takes place this Saturday, May 28 and there will be a Pride event Saturday, June 18.

### Funk at antiwar event

Stephen Funk, the gay former Marine reservist who refused to go to the war in Iraq two years ago and served time in a military prison as a result of a court-martial, will join others at an antiwar event Sunday, May 29 at 6 p.m. at Martin Luther King Middle School, 1781 Rose Street, in Berkeley. The event costs \$12 per person and is open to the public.

In addition to Funk, other conscientious objectors, Iraq War veterans, and military families will celebrate military resistance at the event, which is being sponsored by Not in Our Name.

Sarah Olson, a volunteer with the organization, noted that Funk met a military recruiter after graduating from high school when he was confused and depressed. He

quickly realized he made the wrong decision, and when his reserve unit was called up for duty in Iraq shortly after the war started, he refused to go. At a press conference in 2003 announcing that he was applying for conscientious objector status, Funk also announced he was gay. He came under some criticism in the gay community, but also drew wide support from other queers and antiwar activists.

### Exercise class for HIVers

Bob Weinhold, an independent personal trainer, has announced that he will offer low-cost beginner's exercise classes for HIV-positive men. Weinhold said that he's been offering the class to men in the Thrive HIV support group and that the number of people participating exceeded his expectations. Now he wants to offer other HIV-positive men the same opportunity.

Weinhold, who runs Lasting Fitness, will offer a series of seven classes at the Gym SF, located at 2275 Market Street in San Francisco. The class size is six to eight people. The first class meets in a non-gym environment to learn about exercise, safety, nutrition, and issues specific to HIV. The next six sessions take place at the gym. The cost is \$10 per session (for those who are already gym members, the cost is \$5 per session). Upcoming June classes are Wednesdays and Fridays at noon beginning June 8. Weinhold said other classes would be added if there was sufficient interest.

"The program focuses on exercising to improve the quality of life rather than specifically to look better," Weinhold said. "The pace of the class is non-judgmental and each person is encouraged to do his best."

Weinhold is certified by the American Council on Exercise. For more information on the class, call (415) 550-0850 or visit [www.lastingfitness.com/hiv-class.htm](http://www.lastingfitness.com/hiv-class.htm). ▼

# Migden to introduce domestic partner tax protections

by Zak Szymanski

Intending to add to the growing list of rights for same-sex couples, state Senator Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) last week announced legislation that would guarantee domestic partners the same property tax protections currently afforded to married couples.

SB565 — originally introduced in February as a bill to encourage home ownership programs — will be amended to address issues of property ownership as they relate to domestic partners. Specifically, SB565 would prohibit property reassessment for any type of transfer between domestic partners, thereby protecting partners from higher taxes as a result those transfers.

The bill codifies some protections that Migden secured in 2003 as chairwoman of the state Board of Equalization, but goes those beyond those BOE rules by extending all the same transfer protections currently available to spouses.

"The BOE rule only applied to transfers related to creation or transfer of a joint tenancy interest,



State Senator Carole Migden

or transfers upon death," explained Alan LoFaso, Migden's chief of staff. "Basically this bill protects domestic partners from reassessment for the same types of transfers for which spouses are currently exempted. The bill would exempt any transfer between registered domestic partners from reassessment and the property tax implications that would come from it."

A typical scenario in which LGBT couples found themselves at a disadvantage was when one partner died and transferred his or her half of the property to the surviving partner. Before the BOE

rules, this transfer could be subject to reassessment and higher property taxes, leaving the surviving partner with a higher financial burden. Codifying the BOE rules, said Migden, strengthens them and helps to ensure that LGBT people do not have to bear additional burdens upon the death of their partners.

"Equal tax protection is an essential for economic equality. The state has given special consideration to married couples as a courtesy and benefit to shield them from an untimely assessment after the death of a loved one. It is an appropriate response to ensure that registered domestic partners are afforded the same protection," said a statement from Migden.

"My bill will provide once and for all that this and other types of property transfers between domestic partners will be undoubtedly treated the same way as property transfers between married couples," she added.

A committee hearing will be set for some time in June, said LoFaso, and the bill will go to the state Assembly before returning to the Senate for a vote. ▼



## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Gay groups reject Les Natali's cash offer

by Matthew S. Bajko

Seven San Francisco-based groups summarily rejected an offer of financial support made by Castro bar owner Les Natali, who is fighting charges he is racist and findings by the Human Rights Commission that he discriminated against black patrons and employees at his bar San Francisco Badlands.

Instead, the groups hosted a rally before a weekly picket of the Badlands on Saturday, May 21 to denounce Natali's offer and hear from Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, the only African American member of the city's Board of Supervisors, who has endorsed the boycott of the bar. The group And Castro For All, which brought the complaints against Natali last June, praised the nonprofits for what it considered a "strong demonstration of solidarity with discrimination victims, and with the Bay Area's African American community."

In an interview earlier this month and in advertisements placed in the *Bay Area Reporter*, Natali pledged to donate up to \$100,000 toward groups promoting diversity. On Wednesday nights, Natali offered to host fundraisers at his bar, donating 70 percent of drink sales that night to the various groups. At minimum, the groups would receive \$3,000 a night.

Natali's offer comes after HRC found that he had practiced discriminatory policies at Badlands, including asking black patrons for a second ID and using a "no bag policy" to keep African Americans out of his bar. The HRC report also said that Natali referred to African Americans as "non Badlands customers" and found that he discriminated against women and blacks seeking employment at the bar.

Natali, who has repeatedly denied the charges against him and is appealing the HRC findings, said in the ads that his bar is "an oasis of racial harmony" and "a place where everyone is welcome and everyone feels welcome."

On Tuesday, May 24, Natali said that he had not been told of



Demonstrators, including Don Romesburg, right, picket Badlands Saturday night.

the groups' decision. He said he did receive calls from individuals in several of the groups asking him to sponsor floats in this year's Pride Parade.

But he said, "I told them I couldn't sponsor individuals. I am hopeful we can all get together and work this thing out."

In an e-mail Wednesday, Natali added, "They are intimidating groups from taking advantage of an opportunity to generate funds for very important and worthy causes. Clearly they have some ulterior motive rather than the best interest of the community in continuing to repeat the same lies and making no constructive suggestion for resolving the problem."

The groups listed in Natali's ads included And Castro For All, LGBT Black Rap, Community United Against Violence, Men of All Colors Coming Together, Les-

bians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action, the San Francisco LGBT Pride Committee, and the Stop AIDS Project. BGLT People in Pride, an Oakland-based organization also named in the ad, has yet to comment on Natali's offer.

"He is trying to buy black people like we are standing on auction blocks. We are not for sale," said Zwazzi Sowu, a member of Black Rap's steering committee.

Sowu called Natali's ad a divisive measure and called on him to take ownership of his actions and apologize for his wrongdoing.

"He has never taken responsibility. He has never said 'Yes, I can see these practices are not conducive to my being within the law. Period.' He has never said that he will change," she said. "All he has ever said is it is not true, all these

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
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
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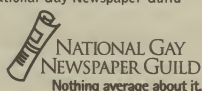
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## OPEN FORUM

## The center holds

The 11th hour compromise between Senate Democrats and Republicans on judicial filibusters has been criticized by the left and the right. It's true that in the long run, the so-called nuclear option may well return when President Bush gets to make a Supreme Court nomination. It's also true that the three nominees to federal judgeships who are likely to be confirmed under the deal — Janice Rogers Brown, Priscilla Owen, and William Pryor — are extreme conservatives and not the type of judges we'd like to see get lifetime appointments. Nevertheless, as the "glass is half full" from our perspective, we'll take the deal made with the moderate Republicans who defied Majority Leader Bill Frist that left the Senate rules in place — at least for now.

It's been satisfying to watch religious conservatives respond angrily to the agreement, which allows a floor vote on three of the president's judicial nominees, while reserving a commitment by Democrats to vote on two others. Additionally, the seven Democrats in the "Gang of 14" are committed to filibuster future judicial nominees under "extraordinary circumstances." This compromise leaves plenty of wriggle room. That Frist was denied his "up or down vote" on every one of the president's nominees demonstrates the power of moderate Republicans when they join together. Often cast aside in the increasingly partisan trenches of Congress, seven GOP senators broke rank and protected the legislative branch — with its checks and balances — from the power grab sought by the executive branch. Pundits have noted that there really is no moderation in Congress these days, what with the GOP firmly in control of all three branches of government. Yet the agreement reached this week shows that there are indeed those in the political center who are willing to defy party bosses to protect the institutions of government.

The real test is yet to come, of course, with the Supreme Court. Given the fragile health of Chief Justice William Rehnquist, a vacancy could occur as early as this summer. There is also the real possibility that other justices could announce their retirement, and if that happens, Bush can and likely will push an already conservative court even further to the right. That could jeopardize future cases involving gays, a woman's right to choose, and a host of other critical issues. Had the Senate gone ahead this week and abolished the filibuster for judicial nominees, the fallout would have left Democrats

without means to fight Bush's candidates to the high court. And make no mistake, the Supreme Court nominations, when they occur, will spark a fierce political battle. This week's showdown was just a warm-up act for the main event — the Supreme Court.

Markos Moulitsas, who runs the liberal Daily Kos blog, aptly summarized this week's developments. The plain facts, he wrote, are that given the Democrats' 10-seat deficit in the Senate (the GOP controls the upper house 55-44, with one independent who votes with the Democrats), Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nevada) needed 51 votes to defeat the nuclear option. He had 49 and needed at least two from undecided Republicans; not having the votes, Reid was in danger of seeing his party lose the option to filibuster, and Bush "would've been able to put anyone on the Supreme Court."

"Radical Christian rightist James Dobson is demanding the right to choose the next Supreme Court nominee," Moulitsas writes, "Dobson's biggest enemy is the fili-

buster. Hence, he forced Frist to engage in the nuclear option. Because of the deal, Dobson can't choose the next Supreme Court justice. Bush's choice, if too extreme, faces the prospect of the filibuster."

Dobson, in fact, was apoplectic, calling the deal a "betrayal by a cabal of Republicans." Anytime you have Dobson, head of

Focus on the Family, accusing fellow GOPers of "betrayal," that's a good thing.

While there are plenty of Democrats who aren't happy, here's another thing to keep in mind: if the party had pumped more money into tight Senate races last fall, and hadn't handed Republicans a net gain of four seats, we wouldn't even be having this discussion. But John Kerry basically took control over the party once he received the presidential nomination, and left the Senate races with less attention and financial resources than they deserved. Kerry, of course, ended up with millions of dollars left over in his campaign account after his disastrous loss. That money might have made the difference. ▼



## Editorial



## Legislation attempts to strengthen centerpiece of nondiscrimination law

by John Laird

In modern times, California has been at the forefront of enacting antidiscrimination laws that seek to bring out the best from Californians — and set up a framework allowing people to live their work lives in an atmosphere based on merit, and their private lives free from unfair discrimination.

In that spirit, I have introduced AB1400, the Civil Rights Act of 2005. Sponsored by Equality California, this legislation will clarify that businesses and other places of public accommodation subject to the Unruh Civil Rights Act cannot discriminate against patrons because of their gender identity, marital status, or sexual orientation.

The Unruh Act and related laws apply to all businesses that provide services, goods, or accommodations to the public in California. Examples include shopping centers, mobile home parks, bars and restaurants, schools, medical and dental offices, hotels and motels, and condominium homeowners associations. These laws now explicitly prohibit discrimination based on classifications including sex, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, or medical condition.

With this bill, we have an opportunity to make a meaningful change to the center-

piece of California's nondiscrimination protections in public accommodations. In the past, the California Supreme Court has rejected the argument that the Unruh Act's ban on discrimination reaches only the classifications specified in the act's text. Instead, the Supreme Court has made clear that the Unruh Act also prohibits arbitrary discrimination based on other "personal characteristics," including sexual orientation, physical appearance, and family status. The court has also made it clear that the act should be interpreted broadly to prohibit arbitrary discrimination based on geographical origin, physical attributes, and individual beliefs.

Despite these court cases, the absence of the explicit listing in the Unruh Act of gender identity, marital status, and sexual orientation had led to an assumption that they are not protected classes covered by law. This assumption has led to unnecessary litigation leading to flawed decisions at the trial and appellate court levels. This proposal will clarify that these specified characteristics are covered. Moreover, by explicitly listing these characteristics and providing definitions, the Unruh Act and related provisions will be more consistent with other recently enacted California nondiscrimina-

tion laws, such as the Fair Employment and Housing Act.

AB1400 is part of a multi-year effort I have undertaken to ensure that California's nondiscrimination laws are as inclusive as possible. Last year, I authored AB2900, which amended over 30 labor and employment-related nondiscrimination laws in the California Code to include the list of protected classes contained in the FEHA, which added sexual orientation and gender identity to many of them for the first time.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed AB2900 into law last year, and I am hopeful that he will do the same for AB1400 this year. AB1400 has successfully passed through the state Assembly, and is now awaiting a hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee. I welcome your support and assistance with the state senators and the governor in supporting this important new step toward equality in our state nondiscrimination laws. ▼

Assemblyman John Laird (D-Santa Cruz) is chair of the Assembly Budget Committee. For more information on AB1400, please visit <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a27/legis0506.htm>.

## Guest Opinion



## LETTERS

## Random thoughts

1) "Partnership" – As the board president of Positive Resource Center in 2001 and 2002 when the financial crisis for PRC and many other AIDS service organizations forced difficult decisions to be made, it feels like we are on the brink of another perilous financially critical period. I have long kept my opinion regarding consolidation and partnership to a close group of friends, but, I feel as a concerned community member and someone who has personally been through difficult times with one of San Francisco's well respected nonprofit agencies, it causes me great concern to see so many well-meaning and very capable agencies stretching fewer and fewer dollars to an ever increasing number of clients. Taking just the costs to provide the infrastructure (information technology, human resources, accounting, administrative reporting, etc.) to support each and every ASO in San Francisco must be in the millions. While caseworkers, service providers, trainers, and so many other direct service personnel at the myriad agencies in San Francisco struggle to stay employed, why must we continue to fund and build out costly infrastructure at each agency? I alone don't have the answer, but am very interested in the dialogue. If San Franciscans are committed to providing the services to all our community, then isn't our responsibility to entertain all kinds of conversations in order to make that happen? Doors will close, and who are we to blame?

2) Badlands – Les Natali, you have nerve! The non-partisan San Francisco Human Rights Commission completes a 10-month investigation telling you, and us, that you have discriminated. Your response, place even larger ads in the B.A.R. promising to hand over \$100,000 to "... organizations that promote diversity and inclusion." With the financial crisis that exists for some nonprofit agencies, I beg you, beware the devil in sheep's clothing. Philip Morris and Adolph Coors meet Les Natali, you all have a lot in common.

3) Robert Davolt – thank you for always noticing and complimenting my heels. Rest in peace.

Mark J. Murphy  
San Francisco

## Due process for bar owner

As a product of the 1960s, there's disconnect hearing misguided pickets rip off movement chants, perversely claiming the moral high ground. "Put down that beer and be a better queer," they chant. It's the Saturday night protest, a cheap date, a social event for those with nothing better to do. While Badlands' faithful pack the bar seeking an escape from the week's blahs, a mob of zealots punish an ethnically diverse group of bartenders for an owner's alleged historical transgressions. This politically incorrect rub ain't about racism, but rather power politics and economic interests. Do a loudmouth pack of activists have the power to pull a business offline? Look out if they win. Will the family of elected officials knuckle to this squeaky bent wheel? Hopefully, ordinary LGBT members will continue to support the Badlands' employees and the outside agitators will get a life or do something about real societal problems. The Badlands' clientele is the Castro's most ethnically diverse group of patrons. That's why the "PC" wannabes don't enjoy mainstream support. Les Natali has donated a fortune to the well-being of our diverse community and deserves due process, not a kangaroo court.

Jack Davis  
San Francisco

## Les Natali, Miss Understood?

I felt compelled to share my story after reading the article entitled "Natali talks with the B.A.R." in the May 12 issue. I am one of the claimants interviewed by the Human Rights Commission during its 10-month investigation of Les Natali's business practices.

I had been going to Badlands since before Les Natali assumed ownership, so I was really taken aback when Mr. Natali asked me to produce three forms of valid ID before I could re-enter the bar. Who carries three forms of ID on them? The doorman attempted to intercede on my behalf, since he knew I had just left the bar to get cash, but Mr. Natali insisted I show three forms of ID. Frustrated and flustered, I pulled out my wallet to see if I had anything besides my driver's license. When Mr. Natali saw that I had a press pass in my wallet, his demeanor changed completely. Suddenly, he said it was a misunderstanding, and that I could go in.

I'm not the only one who was treated this way. After interviewing numerous patrons, employees, and former employees of Mr. Natali, the HRC found that Mr. Natali was in violation of the law by actively discriminating against African American customers and job applicants. One of the ways he discriminated was by applying an unequal multiple ID policy, which is illegal in San Francisco. During the 10-month investigation, Mr. Natali was consistently uncooperative and disruptive. He changed lawyers at the last minute, refused to hand over requested documents to the HRC, and refused to mediate with the claimants. In his

recent interview with the B.A.R. he says to the claimants that, again, it was "a misunderstanding."

Actions speak louder than words. Now he's launched a deceptive PR campaign, engaged in personal attacks on complainants, claimed that the HRC doesn't have the authority to do its job, and offered bribes to African American and LGBT community groups to buy their silence. Natali is also trying to lure people to choose cheap drinks over civil rights by exploiting an attractive young multiethnic crew to hand out half-price drink coupons on the street.

I understood very well that Mr. Natali was trying to keep me out of his bar, and why. So did the HRC investigators. The only misunderstanding is on Mr. Natali's part. He thought he could get away with discriminating against people like me, and completely misunderstood the people of San Francisco. We are no longer willing to ignore his unlawful and disrespectful behavior. We are outraged and able to see through his transparent attempts to save face. No misunderstanding this: It's time for justice and accountability.

Marvin Miller  
San Francisco

## Closure of adult day program

As a longtime member of the Continuum community, I feel compelled to write to you to share some of the truly miraculous and frequently everyday events in the world of our Adult Day Health Care program. For 15 years, clients and staff alike have come together each morning to celebrate our community – those within our four walls and those outside.

Two weeks ago, when I stood in the community room to talk with our members about the pending closure of the program, I girded myself for tears, anger, blame – all the emotions that one would expect from this kind of announcement.

Instead, this community did what it always does – after the disbelief and asking many questions – it stood together and celebrated its successes: personal and familial. They stood to share with us how they had come to Continuum broken and would be able to leave it whole. So, while Mr. Zak Szymanski provided a relatively fair and seemingly balanced assessment of the state of affairs at Continuum ("Continuum closes adult day program," May 19), I think that he missed the point. On behalf of our members and staff, I want to acknowledge the success of the Adult Day Health Care program for surviving as long as it has, for beating the odds over and over when it looked like the end.

Other HIV-specific ADHC programs have opened across the country since we did 15 years ago and most have closed or been luckily subsumed by hospitals or other large institutions. We have had a great run, been blessed by the presence of too many friends long gone, and we are grateful for it all. For those of you troubled by the timing of our annual event just days before the announcement, I am sorry that we could no longer postpone what had after 12 months of brainstorming become the inevitable. For those of you who would like to believe that the program's demise is the result of bloated management salaries, I direct you to our previous audits that show our operating overhead is 15 percent and that includes all costs for raising the donations we used to keep this program open for so long. For those of you who believe that armchair quarterbacking belongs in the world of healthcare and not just Monday Night Football, I invite you to walk a Tenderloin block in our cleats. And finally, for those of you who have been supporters of our clients, thank you and I hope that you will join those of us left in continuing the spirit of the ADHC program in every aspect of Continuum and our clients' futures.

Tiffany Mock-Goeman  
San Francisco

## No tobacco \$ at Gay Games

The right-wing American Family Association is protesting a gift by tobacco-affiliate Kraft Foods to the Chicago Gay Games. I received e-mails this week urging me to call Kraft to thank them for supporting the community. I did not.

Instead, I contacted the organizers of the games, urging them to return the blood money. Believe it or not, tobacco kills more queer men each year than AIDS and far more queer women than breast cancer. Smoking is therefore a queer issue.

When our community groups refuse to accept tobacco money, it isolates a rogue industry and promotes the health of the community.

I'm sure we'll have plenty of opportunities to rally behind corporate donors who don't push a product that kills half of its long-time customers.

The Gay Games ought to be a celebration of healthy living, the antithesis of what the tobacco industry stands for. If you agree, please contact Brian McGuinness, the executive director of the Chicago Gay Games, at (773) 433-8007 or info@gaygameschicago.org and urge him to return the money.

Naphtali Offen  
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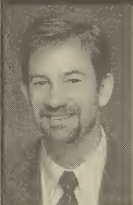
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# Beyond equality and liberty

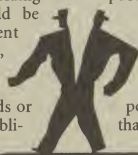
by Dale Carpenter

From its inception the gay civil rights movement has had two basic impulses, both of which I share. One has been equality, holding that gays shouldn't be discriminated against. The other has been liberty, holding that individuals should be largely free of government interference. Together, these impulses have gotten us where we are today: no more bar raids or sodomy laws, the free publication of gay magazines and newspapers, the formation of gay organizations, a smattering of laws protecting gays from employment and other bias. These are large accomplishments.

Yet we have hit a wall of public disapproval on gay marriage and, more broadly, on the morality of homosexuality itself. After moving the polls in our direction for a decade or so, the number of Americans who support gay marriage has now stabilized and even turned slightly against us. The same trend is evident when people are asked about the morality of homosexuality. Republicans, by 68 percent to 27 percent, believe homosexuality is morally wrong. Even Democrats muster only a bare majority for the view that ho-

mosexuality is morally acceptable (50 percent approving to 46 percent disapproving).

How do we breach this wall? Not, I think, by more talk of equality and liberty. We have won over just about everyone who will be moved by such arguments. That leaves more than half the public still unpersuaded.



**OutRight**

Marriage is the perfect example of why we've hit a wall. Marriage is neither egalitarian nor libertarian. It is practically the opposite of these things and that is why appeals to antidiscrimination principles and individual rights fall flat.

Consider how unequal marriage is. Marriage, by law and custom, is judgmental. It says that some ways of living are better than others. Some relationships are healthier than others. Two-person relationships are better than three-person relationships. Sex within marriage is better for people than sex outside of it. Monogamy is better than promiscuity. People should make babies when they are married, but not when they are not. Children are better off raised by two people than by a single person or by three people or by a commune.

Marriage gives to some relationships, but not to any others, an array of social support, benefits, and legal protections. In other


words, marriage creates status hierarchies that are antithetical to the liberal egalitarianism that has dominated the gay civil rights movement for almost forty years.

One can make an egalitarian argument for gay marriage. This is what many left-progressives have rather uneasily tried to do. One can argue, for example, that gay marriage is justified on the principle that gay couples are relevantly like straight couples. That's right as far as it goes, but it means we're saying gay-couple relationships are better than other relationships. It leaves out single people and relationships that don't fit the traditional pattern of two-person monogamy. They get nothing from allowing gay marriage.

Honest progressives have long understood this and for that very reason have resisted the gay-marriage movement. They do not like status hierarchies and rightly see gay marriage as reinforcing them. They want everyone to be given legal protections and benefits, regardless of the form, nature, and numerosity of the relationships they enter.

Now consider how unlibertarian marriage is. Nobody is literally forced to get married. But civil marriage, as an institution shaped by the state, puts the government in the position of backing some relationships at everyone's expense. Each of the various legal

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## POLITICS

# 'Nuclear' attack on LGBT rights

by Bill Barnes

Fourteen senators this week announced a deal to avert the so-called nuclear option that would end the filibuster to block extreme judicial nominees. Luckily, both California Democratic senators, **Barbara Boxer** and **Dianne Feinstein**, avoided this misguided coalition, which is made up of seven Democrats and seven Republicans.

Under this deal, extremists **Janice Rogers Brown** (California) and **William Pryor** (Alabama) get up-or-down votes, and it is likely both will be confirmed. The Human Rights Campaign issued a misleading statement proclaiming "Compromise Preserves Filibuster, Prevents Future Extremists." Neither Brown nor Pryor have the lifetime federal positions yet, but this deal paves the way to make them future judicial extremists.

Brown was the only California Supreme Court justice to rule against allowing lesbian and gay parents to adopt children. Brown said that allowing a partner to adopt his or her partner's biological child "trivializes family bonds."

As Alabama's attorney general, Pryor was the only AG outside of Texas to support Texas' sodomy law. President **George Bush** used a recess appointment to name Pryor to the federal bench,

where he was the deciding vote to uphold Florida's same-sex adoption ban, the only such law in America. **Kevin Cathcart** of Lambda Legal said Pryor "is the most demonstrably antigay judicial nominee in recent memory."

Why would Democratic senators back this ill-conceived plan to install antigay justices for life on the federal bench? The leaders of the Democratic side – **Ben Nelson** (Nebraska) and **Robert Byrd** (West Virginia) – are the only two Democrats still in the Senate who last year voted for the Federal Marriage Amendment. When you compare the seven Democratic and seven Republican senators on the FMA, four of the senators from each party voted against writing discrimination into the Constitution.

Six Democrats in the coalition have an average of 60 on a scale of 100 on the Human Rights Campaign's scorecard, far lower than normal for Democrats. The seven Republicans have a combined score of 41, much higher than normal, and include two – **Lincoln Chafee** (Rhode Island) and **Susan Collins** (Maine) – with an 88 out of 100, scores that make them as good or better than any Democrat in the "Gang of 14."

It's clear why moderate Republicans wanted to avert a tough vote that would frustrate extreme conservatives from their base. Why some Democrats sold out, when they were winning under effective Senate Minority Leader **Harry Reid** (Nevada), remains an open question. You just knew things would turn out poorly when Senator **Joe Lieberman** (Connecticut) was falling over himself to praise the deal. Our community must hold so-called moderate



Supervisor Sophie Maxwell speaks to members and supporters of And Castro For All before last Saturday's picket at Badlands bar.

Senate Democrats accountable for selling out when fair-minded Americans and other Democrats could have derailed the nuclear option.

## Supes to honor Levada?

Everybody in San Francisco politics seems to have an opinion of **Arthur Evans**, whose e-mail missives skewer our elected leaders and poke fun at progressives. Yet Evans' newest entry, "Has McGoldrick Gone Bananas?" is right on.

Like most supervisors, **Jake McGoldrick** introduces

feel-good resolutions. These measures thank people for doing work they're supposed to do, acknowledge bureaucrats when they retire, and show official support for any number of worthy and questionable endeavors and individuals. On May 17, McGoldrick put forward his latest resolution honoring **William Levada**, the San Francisco archbishop recently named head of the Catholic Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Hopefully, supervisors will reject this unfortunate proposal.

Evans rightly points out that Levada "has been the living embodiment of homophobia, sexism, corporate toadyism, doctrinal rigidity, and outright deceit." Levada donated \$30,000 of church money to the Knight initiative to outlaw gay marriage, urged the city of Rome to ban its Pride celebration, opposed initial attempts to provide domestic partnership benefits to eligible workers of businesses that contract with the city, and, as Evans puts it "intend[s] to sell off priceless historic churches here to developers, in order to pay off lawsuits against priests who have molested children."

On the last point, it's worth acknowledging state Senator **Carole Migden** (D-San Francisco), Board of Supervisors President **Aaron Peskin**, and community activist **Joe Dignan** for their effective defense of St. Brigid's Church, a historical landmark if ever there was one.

## Marriage watch I: Republicans attack!

I always knew the far right's obsession with gay marriage was tinged with hypocrisy. During deliberations on the Defense of Mar-

riage Act years ago, **Elizabeth Birch**, then director of HRC, offered the best analysis when she asked the then-Congressman **Bob Barr**, the bill's sponsor, "Which marriage are you defending: your first, second, or third?"

So this comes as no surprise: while Seminole County's **Jim Stelling** was running for Florida GOP chair, fellow Republican **Nancy Goettman** sent out a letter suggesting that someone married six times wouldn't be the best family values leader. Stelling sued Goettman over the letter, saying he had only been married five times, not six. Stelling lost the party chair election in a very close vote.

## Marriage watch II: ET features child rapist

Five-time husband Stelling has nothing on twice-convicted child rapist **Mary Kay LeTourneau**, whose wedding to former student **Vili Fualaau** was glorified on *Entertainment Tonight*. LeTourneau was the 34-year-old teacher convicted of having sex with Fualaau, then a 12-year-old boy in her sixth grade class. While on probation, LeTourneau was busted again. She returned to prison for the rest of her seven and a half year sentence, where she gave birth to the couple's second child.

Some judge with more sense than LeTourneau awarded custody of the two children to Fualaau's mother, who's essentially the same age as LeTourneau. Now 43-year-old LeTourneau and 22-year-old Fualaau have wed in a lavish ceremony at a Washington state winery. No law or sex abuse conviction blocked their marriage.

## Marriage watch III: Maryland setback

Five marriages for Republican leaders are okay, and a sexually abusive teacher can marry the student. Yet Maryland Governor **Bob Ehrlich** (R) doesn't think same-sex couples should even be able to visit one another in the hospital. Ehrlich vetoed a bill that would have allowed such simple rights and basic protections straight people – including the often-married and age-inappropriate – take for granted. How's that for fairness?

## Scenes from Badlands

Saturday night marked the fourth week of Badlands protests,

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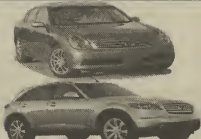
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# Genetic redemption?

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

The same week that medical science grabbed headlines for determining that gay men process smells differently from straight men, another notable piece of research eluded attention. This other study, to be published in the August issue of a scientific journal with the rather unwieldy title of *Psychoneuroendocrinology*, presents a possible genetic difference among a number of transsexuals.

I'll try to break it down a bit more than one might expect from a journal with the above title. What these researchers found via genetic research of transsexuals was a repeating sequence of genes. The genes in question affect the sexual development of the brain.

This study may prove one of the more dominant theories about the cause of transsexuality, as one of the genes in question affects the flow of estrogen to the brain of a fetus.

It has long been postulated that it is a "hormonal flush" of the brain — or lack thereof — before birth that could cause the development of transsexuals.

This new study is far from a conclusive answer to why there are transsexuals in the world, but it is likely the closest proof yet that transsexuals are born, not made. The only other study to come close examined an obscure region of the brain, and found differences in the size of said region amongst male to female transsexuals. Each subject had been on feminizing hormones for several years, and these hormones could have potentially affected their brain structure. This older study also only included six male to female subjects — hardly a sizable number.

That is one of the flaws, too, with the new research. Researchers studied 29 male to female transsexuals, versus 229 non-transsexual males. It can be hard to base conclusive studies on such a small test group, though the results appear positive. Unlike the earlier study, it's rather unlikely that hormones could cause a significant genetic shift.

I also note that both of the above studies focused on male to female transsexuals, ignoring female to male transsexuals as well as any number of other members

of the larger transgender community. I could imagine there would be a sizable amount of variation among these various groups.

The new research is encouraging that some "proof" may now be had that transsexualism, at least, is more of a physical, genetic variance, rather than some sort of mental health issue. Something that many transpeople have been saying all along.

That may be the most important part of all this. For over a century, some of the more forward-thinking of the medical establishment have taken interest in those of the population who insist, in spite of the appearance of their bodies, that their gender is something else. Nevertheless, it's been transgender people

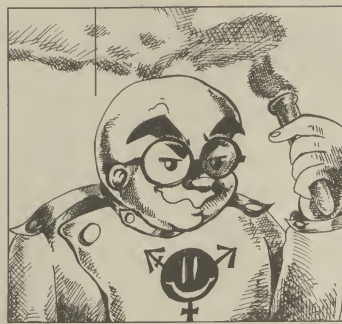
who have gotten the particular ball rolling in the first place, simply by expressing a desire to be seen as a member of a gender that feels more comfortable to them, rather than that which society at large would prefer they stay within.

It has been transsexuals who have gone through the gender programs, or through the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care, in order to receive treatment to change their sex, and it has been all members of the larger transgender community who have fought to be seen not only as sane, but worthy members of society.

With a study like this, we may finally have something we can point to and say "this proves that I'm not just some crazy person."

Unfortunately, like any of the studies over time that have pointed to causes for homosexuality, I suspect that any potential flaws in new study will be used to discredit any valid findings, or, more likely, this study will be ignored altogether.

Indeed, I suspect members of the conservative right to stick to older dogma that transsexuals are "sick," can be "cured" through religion, and, naturally deserve to be treated as second-class citizens. Certainly, many of their ilk seem to prefer relegating scientific



Christine Smith

knowledge as secondary to their religious teachings or moral stance.

More than this, my own paranoid leanings make me question if finding a genetic link to transsexuality might eventually lead to some form of "gene therapy" or other treatment to try and get rid of those things that might cause the development of a transsexual. It is not that much of a stretch, especially when one considers the forced sterilization of thousands of Americans in the first half of the 20th century, as part of the failed "eugenics" movement. It can simply depend on how one views gender variance — and this culture seem to be reinforcing gender conformity more than ever.

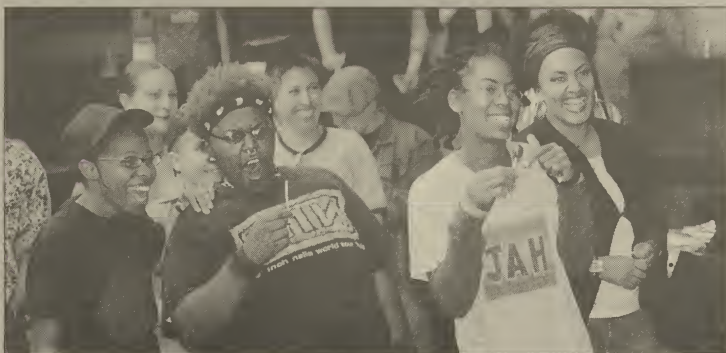
The most likely thing to come out of such research, once proven, could be a genetic screening for transsexuality. It could do away with the current standards of care, requiring a year of cross living and the care of a therapist, or it could just be added to the current standards.

For now, things are still based purely on the genetic makeup of a mere 29 male to female transsexuals, and while it does seem to pan out among them, there is still a lot farther to go before any of the above might be justified. For now, I would rather like to think that this research may indeed be a tool for transgender people, rather than one that can be all-too-readily used against us.

Yet to me, when all is said and done, this study means very little to me. It can only prove what I've long since known in my heart — and I'll take that over any study, any day. ▼

Gwen Smith thinks her genes are just fine, if a bit snug at the waist. You can find her online at [www.gwensmith.com](http://www.gwensmith.com).

## Gearing up for Dyke March



Jane Pridemore-Cleaves

Supporters of San Francisco's Dyke March get into the spirit Saturday, May 21 at a fun fundraising party at El Rio. Happy Hyder, a grand marshal of last year's Pride Parade, was one of the performers; other entertainment included bands, poets, and dancers. This year's Dyke March takes place Saturday, June 25 at Dolores Park. For more information, visit [www.dykemarch.org](http://www.dykemarch.org).



# Hand job

by Jane Warner

**W**ells Fargo, 2020 Market, May 21, 10:29 a.m.: A bank employee saw a man standing near the customer service line, looking as though he wasn't sure where to go. "Can I help you?" she asked. "Yes," the man replied. "I'd like to make a withdrawal." The employee directed him to the appropriate line where the man stood in line with the rest of the customers. When he reached the teller, however, he held his hands together below the counter as though he had a gun and quietly said in a low whisper, "This is a robbery. Give me all your money." Afraid he had a gun, the teller handed the suspect an undisclosed amount of money. The robber put the money in his pants pocket and fled to the parking lot of Safeway. The suspect — described as African American, 50 years old, 6 feet 2 inches, 170 pounds, wearing a green shirt, and black jeans — was last seen crossing Church Street. Responding police searched the area, but were unable to find him.

## Freeze frame

1300 block of Church Street, May 15, 9 a.m.: While in his house, a resident heard a noise coming from his living room. When he went to investigate, he saw a strange man coming through the window. Hearing her husband yell, the man's wife came out of the bathroom and saw her husband confronting the suspect. The suspect, described as

a white male in his 30s, slid down a ladder that he had placed against the side of the house and disappeared out of sight. The couple called the police, who searched the area but were unable to find the suspect. The next day, however, a police sergeant read the report and recognized the suspect as someone she had stopped and questioned earlier that week. The sergeant looked through her notes and got his name and his photo from a previous mug shot. The sergeant showed a photo lineup to the victims, who positively identified the suspect as the man who had

attempted to crawl through their window. The sergeant forwarded the information to the burglary division where a warrant was issued for the man's arrest.

## Liquid lunch

Cala Foods, 4201 18th Street, May 17, 10:18 a.m.: A clerk watched as a man entered the store carrying a large gray shopping bag. The man went over to the section where the alcoholic beverages were displayed and placed two large bottles of Beefeater gin in his shopping bag. The man walked past the cash registers, failing to pay for the merchandise, and then proceeded out of the door. Seeing this, the clerk gave chase and the suspect began to run eastbound on 18th Street toward Castro. The clerk pursued the suspect down 18th, until they reached the 7-Eleven, where the suspect ran out of breath and stopped running. "I fucked up. Here, take it," the suspect said and threw down the

shopping bag containing the stolen booze. A police officer drove up at about the same time and took the suspect into custody without incident. A search of his clothing, however, discovered two crack pipes hidden in his pants pocket and a computer search revealed he was on active parole. The suspect, 36, was taken to Mission Station where he was booked for burglary, possession of paraphernalia, and parole violation.

## Grab bag

Clinton Park and Guerrero, May 23, 6:10 p.m.: A construction worker working inside a residence on Guerrero Street heard a loud bang coming from outside the house. When he went out to investigate, he saw a strange man leaning into the rear windshield of a parked unattended black Toyota pickup truck. The worker could see the windshield had been smashed as shards of glass were strewn across the pavement where the man was standing. The suspect looked startled as he saw the worker looking at him and grabbed a large gray plastic tub containing numerous tools out of the bed of the truck and started running eastbound on Clinton Park toward Valencia Street. The worker called 911 on his cell phone and gave a description of the suspect as African American, 40 years old, wearing a red baseball cap, blue windbreaker jacket and blue jeans. Police searched the area for the suspect but were unable to find him. ▼

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 559-9955.

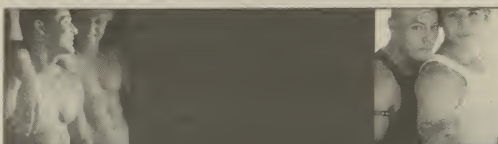


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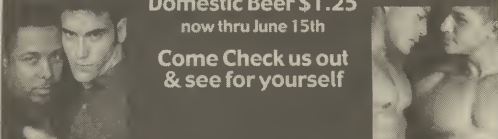
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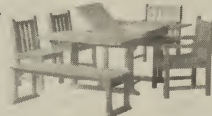


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# Gay groups subdued on Senate deal

by Lisa Keen

When right-wing antigay conservatives such as Gary Bauer and James Dobson hate something, it's a pretty sure bet gays will like it. But when the U.S. Senate agreed this week to set aside a plan to eliminate use of the filibuster for judicial nominees, the reaction from gay political quarters was decidedly tempered.

Bauer, head of American Values, and Dobson of Focus on the Family, said the compromise is a "sell out" and a "complete bail out," respectively.

For gays, the good news was that, at least for now, the Democratic minority would retain some ability to filibuster ultra-conservative nominees to the federal courts.

But National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Executive Director Matt Foreman said the compromise left him feeling "a deep foreboding" and Kevin Cathcart, executive director of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, said it comes at a "high price for the LGBT community."

In order to get enough Republicans to vote to protect the filibuster, Democrats had to agree to allow the Senate to vote on three judicial nominees, including one whom Lambda Legal characterizes as "perhaps the most antigay

federal judicial nominee in memory." That nominee is William H. Pryor.

"Compromise is never pretty, especially when it involves allowing somebody as antigay as William Pryor to get a lifetime appointment to the federal appeals court," said David Smith, vice president of policy for the Human Rights Campaign. "That is certainly not good."

But faced with the prospect that Republicans needed only 51 of their 55 votes to eliminate the filibuster and then approve all nominees, he said, the compromise's result has to be seen as "positive."

To end an ongoing filibuster, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tennessee) needed all 55 Republicans and five additional votes. But to eliminate the filibuster, all he needed was a ruling from Republican Senate President Dick Cheney that filibusters cannot be used during consideration of judicial nominations. Assuming Cheney was poised to deliver such a ruling and that Democrats were poised to object to it, the Senate could have eliminated filibusters with a simple majority.

So Monday night, when seven Republicans announced that they had agreed to a compromise with seven Democrats to allow filibusters only in "extraordinary circumstances," those seven Republicans effectively refused to vote the party line on Frist's plan — which former Majority Leader Trent Lott had dubbed the "nuclear option."

Publicly, Frist welcomed the compromise, but on the floor of the Senate Tuesday, it was clear that he was still squaring for a fight. He said his plan was "still on the table" and that he would "not hesitate to use it, if necessary."

HRC's Smith said he is not worried about Frist's comments because the Frist plan cannot succeed without at least three of the seven Republicans deciding to abandon the compromise. The

seven who signed on are some of the senate's most respected Republicans, including John McCain (Arizona) and John Warner (Virginia), and among the least prone to getting in line as mere partisan proxies.

In fact, the compromise appears to be more a product of creative negotiations rather than the more routine tradeoffs between left and right. Smith said the 14 senators working on the compromise did not provide outside organizations with any opportunity to say which nominees they would be allowed to advance to a floor vote. Had gay organizations been consulted, Pryor would have been at the top of the "extraordinary circumstances" list.

"Pryor has compared our love to bestiality, incest, and pedophilia," said Cathcart. "He says prohibiting antigay discrimination is giving us 'special privileges.' And he thinks one of our recent Supreme Court victories against antigay bigotry amounts to 'new rules of political correctness.'"

Smith said "every effort will be made" to defeat Pryor's nomination when it is brought to the floor.

The compromise did not include a floor vote for one antigay nominee — William G. Myers III, whom President Bush nominated to the 9th Circuit (San Francisco). Myers has said he agrees with the 1986 Bowers v. Hardwick decision in which the U.S. Supreme Court upheld laws prohibiting sodomy between consenting same-sex adults. He could get a floor vote, but he'll need 60 votes to stop the expected Democratic filibuster.

Reacting to the compromise this week, Bauer said the deal means that it is "now more likely that radical social change will continue to be forced on the American people by liberal courts committed to same-sex marriage, abortion on demand, and hostility to religious expression."

Dobson called it "a complete bailout and betrayal by a cabal of

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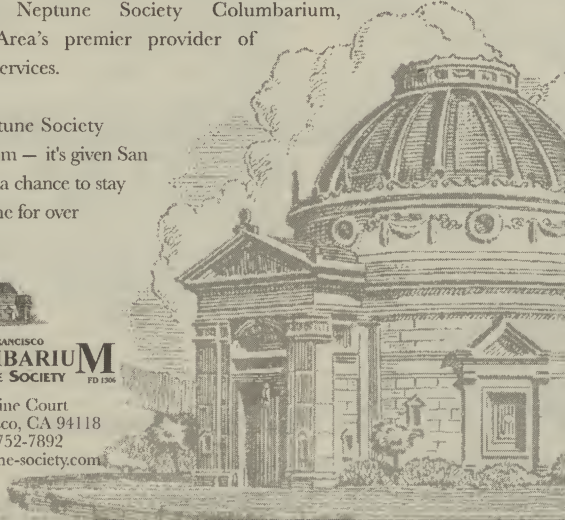
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## OutRight

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benefits associated with marriage carries a price that is borne through taxes by everyone, including those who don't want to marry. Marriage is a tax on being single or polygamous.

One could make a libertarian case for marriage by arguing that marrying is a choice that should be freely open to autonomous individuals. But this view misses the point of marriage, which is not a celebration of individual autonomy. It is about duty to others, not freedom for oneself. Further, in marriage, the state is hardly neutral about individual choices. It encourages people to make the marriage choice and then, once they've made it, regulates the choice by conditioning their conduct in it and their exit from it (through divorce).

That's why some libertarians eschew gay marriage in favor of abolishing marriage altogether and replacing it with a system of allowing people to enter enforceable private contracts for mutual care. This proposal is completely utopian (or in my view, dystopian), since abol-

ishing state-sanctioned marriage after centuries of state involvement is even less likely than the election of a Libertarian Party president. But for a libertarian it has the academic virtue of consistency.

Marriage is founded on neither equality nor liberty. It is in some ways the negation of these. It is a way of binding people together in a union that is thought to benefit the couple, any children they raise, and the community around them, to an extent that other relationships simply do not. That's why it is a social institution. It is shaped by and helps to nurture the society in which it arises.

If we are to get gay marriage, we must be able to appeal to the bulk of the country that properly understands marriage in this way. We must argue for it not on the basis of antidiscrimination principles, or on the basis of individual liberty, but on the basis of community. It is like nothing else we've fought for. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. He can be reached at [OutRight@aol.com](mailto:OutRight@aol.com). Some of his past columns can be read at <http://www.indiegayforum.com/>.



# Gay parenting

◀ page 1

ents." For the women involved in the cases it was an emotional day. Emily B., who is seeking child support from her former partner, cried inside court. Outside, she held up framed photos of her twins, Kaia and Ry, who has Down syndrome.

"They deserve child support. The fact she can just walk away and abandon these children isn't right," said Emily. "I feel very positive."

At issue in the cases, all of which stem from custody battles between lesbian couples, is whether children of same-sex couples can be denied the opportunity to receive child support from two parents, and whether a person can be allowed to avoid child-support responsibility merely because his or her former partner is the same sex.

"All children are entitled to support from the two people who brought them into the world and all children are entitled to support from the person who creates a parent-child relationship and takes them into their home," argued Kara Read-Spangler on behalf of state Attorney General Bill Lockyer. "Don't rely on biology, rather look at the contact and conduct of the people involved."

When asked by Justice Ming Chin if it matters if the parent is a man or a woman, Read-Spangler replied the court cannot read state laws governing child support that refer to husband and wife "literally" and must apply them "without the gender of the people involved in mind."

On behalf of the public, Lockyer invoked his authority to challenge a Court of Appeals ruling, *Elisa Maria B. v. Superior Court of El Dorado County*, in which the appeals court ruled that one of the parents in a separated same-sex couple does not have child-support obligations. On behalf of Lockyer, Read-Spangler argued that same-sex couples have the same legal duty to financially support the children they bring into this world as those of opposite-sex couples, because when only one of two people is required to provide support, it's the children who unfairly bear the burden.

She also said that based on the court's decision in *Sharon S.*, which upheld second-parent adoptions, and the legislature's passage of AB205, state lawmakers indicated they "want to extend protections to same-sex couples and their children."

The case involves former couple Elisa B. and Emily B., who arranged through a sperm bank to have child together. Emily became pregnant with twins and Elisa had a third child. For a time Elisa supported the family as the sole provider, however, after the two women split up, Elisa stopped her financial support and El Dorado County officials filed suit against her in 2001 to force her to pay child support.

A trial court ruled that Elisa is a parent to the children because the two women planned the family together and Elisa held the children out as her own and therefore bears financial responsibility for them. The appeals court disagreed, ruling that Elisa should not be considered the other parent to the children and has no obligations to her family.

Her attorney, Shelly Hanke, told the court "is Elisa B. a parent? Absolutely not." Hanke conceded that "whenever possible a child should have two parents," but added "that is not always the case.

A woman can have a child under artificial insemination and the father can donate sperm without being sued for financial obligations."

However Justice Chin told her "the facts in this case do not support your position." He pointed out that Elisa routinely identified all three children as her own, even claiming them as her dependents on tax forms and breast-feeding them.

"What does this look like to you?" he asked.

To which Hanke responded, "That I shouldn't breast feed someone else's child."

Chin pressed on with his questioning, asking "Didn't your client claim this child as her own?" After being told she had, Chin then asked, "Didn't she tell an expectant employer she had triplets?" Hanke replied she didn't know if she had done that, but acknowledged Elisa had told family and friends that.

By saying Elisa is responsible for Emily's children, Hanke said the court would "be stretching into the absurd by saying a mother can be a father. Elisa is not the mother - Emily is the mother - and she can't be the father."

Judge Marvin Baxter said it appeared that Elisa does fall under how the state defines a parent since she held out the children as her own and received them into her home. "It seems clear to me one can apply presumption of parenthood to this case. The presumption does arise, there is no way around it."

Justice Janice Rogers Brown, whose nomination to the federal bench was part of the showdown over filibusters in the U.S. Senate, did express concerns about what impact the court's ruling would have on the right of a woman to decide who would parent her children.

"Suppose if Elisa were a male who was not biologically related to Emily's children but agreed to pay for the children but didn't sign any agreement. Then he wanted to be a father and she didn't want him to, would we be overriding her rights?" asked



NCLR attorney Courtney Joslin

Brown of Courtney Joslin, an attorney with the National Center for Lesbian Rights, which represented Emily in the case. "If a verbal agreement is enough then she is yoked into that position from here on out?"

"If there is enough evidence," Joslin answered.

Brown suggested by ruling on behalf of Emily the court could open up the possibility of strangers intruding on parental roles. She also questioned "if any oral agreement would be enough how would we know it?"

## Second case

In the second case of *K.M. v. E.G.* a lower court found that since K.M. signed a waiver at a UCSF fertility clinic to donate her

eggs to E.G. she relinquished any legal ties to the children born from those eggs. The appeals court upheld that decision.

However the woman, whose name is Kim and lives in San Rafael, maintains she should not be held to the waiver agreement and is indeed the children's mother. Her lawyer, Jill Hersh, argued that a true donor does not go home with the woman carrying her ova as Kim did and help raise the kids. "The form is a Catch-22. She had to sign the form before the procedure could go forward," argued Hersh. "Clearly this form did not take into account the existence of a loving, lesbian relationship."

The women were domestic partners and "agreed to create a family together," she said. "The children thought, this is their mother. There is nothing in the way this family lived that is any different than our notion of an idealized unitary family."

E.G.'s lawyer, Diana Richmond, noted that her client specifically told Kim that she wanted to be the sole parent and only after the women had been together five years would she consider allowing Kim to adopt them.

However Justice Chin once again questioned the notion that Kim was not a parent, noting E.G. told Kim's parents they would be grandparents.

"There are some things here in the record that look like they are both parents of these children," he said.

To which Richmond said Kim's role was similar to a stepparent or a domestic partner who enters into a relationship with a partner who already has children.

"It doesn't make the new spouse automatically the father or mother of the other person's children," she said. "She never held out these children as her children. Only E.G. was listed as the mother on the birth certificate, baptismal certificate."

But Kim was listed as their mother on school records in order to be able to pick them up, leading Justice Kennard to ask, "why shouldn't this court take that into account?"

Chief Justice Ronald George seemed to side with Kim's lawyer when he noted that the waiver form "was given to the parties. It was not drawn up by the parties." And Justice Werdegar noted that, "it sounds like signing the form was mandatory. If you didn't sign it, there was no way to procreate here."

Richmond interjected that it did not matter who wrote the forms because "the parties discussed those forms weeks before they signed it" and therefore Kim should not be viewed as their mother.

But Justice Kennard seemed to dismiss that argument, saying, "one can argue that K.M. had a very long relationship with the twins. If looked at from a legislative policy, wouldn't the children be better off to have K.M. as a second parent? Not only do they already have a relationship with her but she is offering to support them."

Richmond tried to argue it isn't whether Kim should be the second parent but who gets to make that decision. Yet Justice Chin said since Kim can claim to be the children's biological mother that "is a powerful fact."

After the proceedings, Kim said the day was "a little overwhelming" but added, "I have to feel hopeful." Her partner moved to Massachusetts in August 2001 and ceased all contact between Kim and the kids last February.

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# Bay State couples mark first anniversary

by Lisa Keen

There's something revolutionary about spring in Massachusetts.

It was spring in the Bay State that the "shot heard round the world" launched the American Revolution against British tyranny in 1775. It was spring in Massachusetts that free black men mustered to form the 54th Regiment of the Union Army, which would lead the north in one of the most dangerous assaults of the Civil War in 1863. And it was spring in Massachusetts that saw the first legal marriages between same-sex couples in the United States in 2004.

Now, in 2005, the United States is an independent democracy, slavery has been abolished in this country, and same-sex couples can still get married — in Massachusetts.

Since May 17, 2004, when the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court's ruling that the state Constitution required same-sex couples to be treated the same as heterosexuals in the issuance of marriage licenses went into effect, more than 6,000 same-sex couples have obtained marriage licenses and had them recorded with the state registry. For some, it is a cultural revolution that threatens, in some unarticulated way, to de-



Some of the Goodridge plaintiffs cut a cake May 17, marking the one-year anniversary of legal same-sex marriage in Massachusetts. From left: Gary Chalmers, Maureen Brodoff, Ellen Wade, Robert Compton, David Wilson, Linda Davies, attorney Mary Bonauto, and Julie and Hillary Goodridge.

stroy the heterosexual world's centuries-long romance with marriage as a rite of passage as certain as taxes and death. But there is no evidence that heterosexual marriage has suffered any degradation from same-sex marriages during the past year in Massachusetts. In fact, there's no evidence that heterosexual marriages are on the wane at all. In the previous three years, the state recorded an average of 37,748 heterosexual marriages per year. In 2004, it recorded 41,290 heterosexual marriages, suggesting, if anything, that heterosexual couples might be experiencing a boost in their enthusiasm for marriage.

As a *Boston Globe* editorial pointed out last week, Massachusetts also has the lowest divorce rate of any state in the nation, "boasting more family stability than any of the 18 states that have adopted constitutional bans on gay marriage."

Because of reporting delays, statistics are woefully incomplete on how many same-sex marriage licenses were recorded during the first year such licenses were legally available in Massachusetts. A tally issued on May 3 by the Massachusetts Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, provides numbers for marriage certificates issued and registered from May 17, 2004, to December 31, 2004. Those numbers are considered preliminary even for those months, said a registry press statement, because "city and town clerks are not required to transmit records to the state registry until the 10th day of the second month following the date of the marriage." For that reason, 5,994 same-sex marriages reflect only those records that were "received and reviewed" by the registry up until December 31.

Using the registry's breakdown by months, the largest number of same-sex marriage licenses were recorded during the last two weeks of May last year — 1,635. In June, there were 1,434 recorded. So more than half of the same-sex marriages recorded in 2004 were recorded between May 17 and the end of June. The number per month dropped off gradually after that time period, appearing to settle down to between 165 and 172 in November and December. Taking the lowest number of same-sex marriages per month (165) and extrapolating that for the months of January through May 16, 2005 one could surmise that the lowest probable number of same-sex marriages in the state for

the one-year period between May 17, 2004, and May 16, 2005, was 6,736. (The *Boston Globe* reports 6,200 but does not indicate where that number comes from.)

Same-sex marriages in the state comprised 18 percent of all marriages in Massachusetts during the recorded time period and never outnumbered heterosexual marriages. Not surprisingly, the greatest percentage of same-sex marriages was recorded during May 2004 — when 46 percent of all marriages during that two-week time period were same-sex marriages. In June, 25 percent of marriages in the state were same-sex marriages and by September through December, same-sex marriages became a steady 9 percent of all marriages recorded in the state. And almost two-thirds of the same-sex marriages recorded thus far are female couples.

## Beyond Massachusetts

But beyond Massachusetts, the fight for equality in marriage licensing has been one step forward, two steps back. One state, Connecticut, moved closer to equality by adopting civil union legislation, but more than a dozen states passed constitutional amendments to ban recognition of same-sex marriages. Court decisions have offered some hope, but many have nullified same-sex marriages in other states.

A national poll conducted for the *Boston Globe* and published last week found that 76 percent of 760 adults surveyed predicted that other states would eventually legalize same-sex marriage. And when asked whether they would favor their own state legalizing same-sex marriage, the survey respondents were tied at 46 percent each. But 41 percent still believe that sexual relations between two adults of the same sex are always wrong.

The best news for the prospects of same-sex marriage came in the *Globe's* pronouncement that the proposal to amend the Massachusetts Constitution to ban same-sex marriage is now in "serious doubt." The *Globe* credited the election last November of four supportive legislators, a new state speaker of the House, and an "increasing acceptance of gay marriage among the public." But the worst news still lies in Washington, D.C., where President Bush and Republican senators continue to press for an amendment to the U.S. constitution to ban recognition of same-sex mar-

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# The rules of gender

by Bob Roehr

There are unwritten rules about being a boy and being a girl that children quickly master in social settings, said Betty Spence. The president of the National Association for Female Executives was kicking off a provocative panel discussion at the 10th GenderPAC conference in Washington, D.C. on May 22.

"In boy world, boys have got to hide their emotions; they have to disdain any signs of being vulnerable; they have to find aggression acceptable; power over weaker boys determines status. In girl world, popularity and looks create status; aggressiveness and independence can get you ostracized; and name calling against weaker girls can improve your status."

Spence said the gender straightjacket and the bullying that is used to enforce conformity is affecting kids' performance in school and the way they see themselves.

"We live in a country that has been violent from the beginning," starting with the "discovery" of the new world and the conquest of native peoples by Europeans, said Lisa Crooms, a professor at Howard University School of Law. Crooms's assertion is reinforced by the fact that the U.S. is the only superpower in the world today.

"So, in many ways, kids are



East Bay teacher Eric Heins

learning to bully at the knees of people who have perfected bullying. ... Until we deal with that larger social-cultural context we won't get to the root causes of bullying," Crooms said. "It's endemic to our culture and the way things work in the United States."

"I don't know that we are necessarily willing to divest ourselves

of our national identity in order to get at critically looking at what it is that we claim to bring, because we are the biggest and the baddest in the world," Crooms said.

"Bullying is a very serious problem. I see it in the classroom, but it mostly happens on the playground," said Eric Heins, an elementary school teacher in the East Bay. The bullies "tend to be successful, according to their peers."

"There is a girl thing and a boy thing for just about everything," Heins said, illustrating it with the way he chose to sit - crossing his legs. That invariably results in one of his young male students asking, "Why do you sit like a girl?"

He explains that the custom was tied to girls wearing dresses and not wanting to expose themselves, but when people wear pants, they can sit any way that makes them comfortable. Heins said, in his classroom, "it is all about respectful behavior and presenting them with options outside of the norm."

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## GenderPAC at 10

by Bob Roehr

GenderPAC turns 10 this year and its longtime leader reflected on the changes the organization has helped usher in, both in the workplace and society at large.

"Ten years ago no major corporation, no member of Congress, or jurisdiction had laws banning gender identity expression discrimination," said GenderPAC Executive Director Riki Wilchins. "Now almost a third of Congress, 60-plus major corporations, 70 local jurisdictions, and 23 states have said that is illegal."

"That's phenomenal progress. In general the whole discourse on gender rights has become much more mainstream and broader than we could have ever anticipated."

"We're growing geometrically," Wilchins added. "We have a gender youth network and are collaborating with 300-400 kids in 37 chapters in 25 states. The parenting network is about to launch, bringing gay and straight parents together."

"A lot of this has to do with the social rights and privileges that we grant one another; the right to be yourself; the right to have your kids be able to pursue all their interests, skills, and talents - whether those were once thought strictly for boys or strictly for girls. You can't legislate that kind of thing, you have to change hearts and minds, and that is what GenderPAC is all about; changing hearts and minds and creating new opportunities that didn't exist before." ▼

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# FDA panel recommends approval of tipranavir

by Bob Roehr

The protease inhibitor tipranavir (trade name Aptivus) likely will be approved by the Food and Drug Administration by late June for use in salvage therapy for HIV. But an advisory committee meeting on May 19 near Washington, D.C. expressed "concerns and reservations" in voting 11-3 to recommend that approval.

The committee's hesitation reflects the difficulties of treating and hence conducting clinical trials in very experienced patients who are running out of options. The typical participant in this trial had already received 12 different anti-HIV drugs. The impact of a drug is not seen so clearly, toxicities are more likely to be observed, and the drug's benefits are not likely to last as long in this population as in those who are completely naive to therapy.

Aptivus is being developed by Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceutical Inc. and is co-administered with the protease inhibitor ritonavir to keep it in the body longer. Its primary benefit is that the virus must evolve a somewhat unique constellation of mutation points to become resistant to it. Thus, even while the virus has mutated resistance to all of the other available protease inhibitors, it still may be susceptible to tipranavir.

However, as experience has taught those living with AIDS, simply adding one new drug to a failing regimen does not offer sustained benefit; at least two and ideally three drugs that still work must be present. "For this particular patient population, T-20 is the only drug available to support tipranavir at this time," said com-

pany researcher Douglas Mayers.

Community advocate Rob Camp offered a smile-inducing analogy of the frustration of salvage therapy when he said in his testimony, "The FDA needs to be Cruella DeVil with these 101 Dalmatians in the sense that you are controlling all of these dogs [of multidrug salvage therapy], and how do you do that? How do you all walk down the street together?"

"Tipranavir has a challenging safety and tolerability profile," Camp said in speaking for the Treatment Action Group and 10 other community organizations. "In order to do no harm, the clinical management needs to be meticulously addressed." The resistance profile and use should be clearly stated on the label; a second agent should be added; and further drug interaction studies need to be conducted.

One of the main concerns of advisory committee members was the added burden the drug places on the liver. All three of the "no" votes on the committee came from liver specialists.

"We see lots of patients coming in and dying of end stage liver disease with undetectable HIV viral loads," said Kenneth E. Sherman, a liver specialist at the University of Cincinnati.

He was concerned that the clinical trials only measured liver enzymes, which is a marker of current inflammation; they did not include liver biopsy, which detects the biologically inert scarring of fibrosis and cirrhosis. "In the community, there is very poor understanding of liver injury. ... When you have symptoms of end stage liver disease, the game is over," he said.

Sherman believes that tipranavir's interactions with

other drugs that may lead to liver toxicity have not been clearly identified. "From the point of hepatology there are still many questions remaining," Sherman said.

He suggested that in using tipranavir, physicians should take elevated liver enzymes as a sign to fully evaluate the patient for underlying fibrosis prior to starting the drug. That probably should include a liver biopsy. "The risk-benefit equation is likely very different in those patients that have a METAVIR stage 0-1-2 disease versus those that are pre-cirrhotic and cirrhotic," he said.

Committee member Douglas G. Fish, an HIV specialist at Albany Medical College, said he would not use tipranavir in patients with more than a grade 2 elevation in liver enzymes. In patients with "underlying liver disease that is not particularly burdensome," he would monitor liver function either weekly or biweekly until he became comfortable that the patient is not at risk for hepatotoxicity.

The committee members expressed frustration at not having a better sense of what the drug's unique resistance profile really means. They hoped that ongoing and new trials might yield better predictors of what patients with which liver mutations are most likely to benefit from the drug, and which are more vulnerable to toxicities.

The panel agreed that extensive and ongoing education would be crucial for effective management of this tricky therapy. It hoped that physicians would defer to experienced experts in using it. As New Mexico community advocate Bob Munk said, "This is not a drug that can be turned loose on the prescribing market without an awful lot of information." ▼

## Les Natali

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people are lying, the HRC is lying."

Stop AIDS Executive Director Bob McMullen said he did not find Natali's offer "particularly generous" and "in many ways it is too little, too late." He added that accepting it would undercut his agency's ongoing outreach to communities of color.

"That is not an organization that I am willing to accept money from because - among other things, especially the timing of the offer - it ends up feeling like I am being asked to vindicate somebody's behavior on the basis of their appearance of being gener-

ous to our agency," he said. "How much credibility are we going to have if we seem overly eager to take money from people who have been proven by a city commission to behave in a way that is discriminatory? It cuts all the way across and completely undermines our credibility. We have no interest in doing that."

In considering the offer, McMullen spoke with agency staff about Kaya Nati, a former staffer of Stop AIDS who provided HRC with a statement about being discriminated against at Badlands. Nati died only weeks before the HRC released its report. McMullen said he had no reason not to believe Nati's account.

"Kaya had great credibility with the staff members I commu-

nicated with. He was not someone who had an agenda with this," he said. "I think if Les wants to vindicate himself he needs to take a disinterested action to address what he has done. By his offering money to us he is looking like he is doing something without doing something."

Instead, McMullen suggested Natali lead an effort by Castro merchants to address racism in the business district.

"He needs to take a real hard look at it, find out the source of where the complaints are coming from and see if there are things the Castro merchants can do to address racism," he said. "He needs to show a true commitment that doesn't do anything for him directly." ▼

## Massachusetts

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riage nationally.

The Globe poll suggests that Americans are still divided on the issue of banning same-sex marriages through a U.S. constitutional amendment - 47 percent oppose the idea, 45 percent favor, and the margin of error is 3.6 percent.

But overall, the poll suggests attitudes toward gays are softening. Most of those who expressed negative views were older than 65 and most who expressed positive

attitudes were 35 and younger.

### Celebrations

Gays in Massachusetts celebrated that increasing acceptance last week, as well as the one-year anniversary of legalized same-sex marriage - and in many cases, the one-year anniversary of their own marriages. Various groups held anniversary receptions, opponents held press conferences predicting gloom and doom, and hundreds of same-sex marriage couples posed for a mass group anniversary photo on a staircase in a central Boston park.

"People have gotten to know

our families," said Julie Goodridge, one of the plaintiff couples in the historic *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health* case that led to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruling that said same-sex couples had a state constitutional right to be treated the same as heterosexual couples in marriage licensing. "People understand we are not a threat to society. We're a couple of moms who bring our daughter to soccer like everybody else."

"And people's capacity for love," said her spouse Hillary Goodridge, "far exceeds their capacity for fear." ▼



# Gays spark African American religious conference

by Jason Victor Serinus

**S**ouls a' Fire, the second national conference for lesbian and gay African Americans involved in religion and ministry, is scheduled for June 23-25 in Chicago. Sponsored by the African American Roundtable of the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, the first large-scale collaborative, cross-disciplinary discussion between LGBT African American scholars, artists, faith community leaders, and social service workers from around the country (and their straight allies) will focus on the theme, "Re-Imagining Black Religious Identity: Race, Class, Gender & Sexuality."

According to Johari Jabir, conference coordinator and an organizer of the roundtable, he and nine others first met over four years ago to discuss what could be done to articulate issues around being gay and lesbian and a person of faith in the black community.

**"Black gay and lesbian people's religious voices have been missing from the discourse about gay and lesbian marriage."**

The first roundtable conference, small in scale, took place in Berkeley in 2003. The following year, a Chicago planning meeting included a symposium on same-sex marriage in the black community and its relationship to the black church.

"You often hear about same-sex marriage from activists," Jabir explained, "but they take a very secularized approach to the conversation. It's different when you hear from black gays and lesbians who do religion all the time."

"Black gay and lesbian people's religious voices have been missing from the discourse about gay and lesbian marriage. Instead we've had white activists speaking to black gay and lesbian people. We want to be able to set our own agenda for action. We don't want to be in reaction to whatever the white hegemonic discourse about being gay and lesbian is."

Jabir insists that the issue is not that gay marriage isn't important. The question is, who decides how important it is for the black lesbian and gay community and how it should be articulated? Are there issues that are more central to the community? The black lesbian and gay community must set its own agenda, rather than reacting to an agenda that white activists establish, said Jabir.

The Reverend Lynice Pinkard, a pastor at Oakland's First Congregational Church, will play a major role at the roundtable. A former associate pastor at San Francisco's City of Refuge, founded by the Reverend Yvette Flunder to cater specifically to the needs of the lesbian and gay African American community, Pinkard will facilitate a plenary entitled "Un-Holy Ghosts: Decolonizing the Churches of Our Youth."



The Reverend Lynice Pinkard

"It's about challenging the churches of our youth, the misogyny, homophobia, and hierarchical authoritarian structures we were raised with," Pinkard explained. "We want to make sure that in creating new churches and theologies, we don't retain a lot of the old baggage of misogyny, gender issues and class oppression."

A related plenary is entitled "Wrapped Up, Tied Up, Tangled Up: The Politics of Aesthetic Maleness, Masculinity & Charisma in Black Religious Culture."

"We want to interrogate the notion of masculinity from a black religious perspective," said Pinkard. "What does it mean to be male from a black male church perspective? What kind of damage has been done as a result of social constructions of gender that have been foisted onto young people?"

Pinkard cited her experience as a therapist in San Francisco's Bayview-Hunters Point specializing in violence issues. The reluctance of black men to hold each other, cry, and share their feelings leads to what she terms "a real deprivation of the spirit," and the notion that one has to subordinate others and perpetrate violence on other men and women.

"Some of this has to do with the fact that black men have been emasculated in this country due to racism; they're considered 'less than' and feminized," said Pinkard. "This leads to the high degree of homophobia in black churches where black men are in positions of authority, and a denigration of the feminine, whether in women or gay men."

From the time of the transatlantic slave trade, Pinkard explained, racial prejudice hinged on the denigration of African bodies. Roundtable participants will examine what it means for blacks to have been taught to hate themselves and people who look like them, and how this internalized oppression leads to sexual repression and internalized homophobia.

Perhaps the most intriguing plenary bears the title, "Don't

Leave It to Beaver: Gender Construction, Misogyny & Homonegativity in the Church's Version of the Family."

"In the black gay community," said Jabir, "there is a subculture called houses. These are refuges for exiled gay and lesbian youth who form alternative families after their own families throw them out for being gay. Our panel addresses not limiting ourselves to straight models of what the family is. We'll talk about how religion shapes our notions of the family, and how to include gay and lesbian youth in that family."

The final plenary, "Reclaiming Stonewall: Issues at the Intersection of Race, Class, Gender & Sexuality," will reveal the central role of African Americans in the Stonewall rebellion. It will also address the centrality of the black religious experience in the lives of Bayard Rustin, James Baldwin, and other great lesbian and gay African American activists, artists, and scholars. ▼

Registration for the conference is \$25 before May 31. For more information, visit [www.clgs.org](http://www.clgs.org) or call (510) 849-8206 or (800) 999-0528.

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# Study raises doubt on superinfections

by Matthew S. Bajko

As the Positive Partners Study sheds light on HIV-positive men who serosort, the study is also raising doubts about the existence of so-called superinfections, where people are infected with multiple strains of HIV. Despite years spent looking to see if superinfection exists, no definitive case of superinfection has yet to be reported.

What researchers have concluded is that individuals in early infection, especially during their first year, may be at risk for superinfection. However, by the time a person is in their third year of infection, the risk appears to be lower. In San Francisco, 90 percent of HIV-positive men who have sex with men are past their third year of carrying the virus.

"We spent five years looking at this and we couldn't find superinfection," said Bob Grant, a researcher with the J. David Gladstone Institutes, speaking a forum for positive men held at Magnet Tuesday, May 17. "People will make you believe superinfection is all over, but it is not so. There are only 14 reported superinfections that we know of so far in the literature out there."

In San Francisco, Grant and his team examined 104 recently infected individuals from the Options Project for evidence of superinfection. After 192 person-years of follow-up, they detected five cases in which a second virus was expressed after seroconversion. In only two cases did testing not eliminate the possibility of superinfection.

They confirmed one case as a dual infection at the time the virus

was acquired and in three cases the second virus appeared during the first year of infection. In the fifth case, the second virus appeared in the third year of infection.

The Gladstone researchers make a distinction between possible superinfection cases and cases where an individual had a dual infection, where they either acquired two genetically variant strains of HIV from the same person or picked up the second strain within a week of first becoming positive. "We know for sure individuals can harbor more than one variant of HIV," explained Grant. "That is different than acquiring a second strain after someone knows they are positive."

Whereas in monkey tests researchers have shown there is a four-week window where a second strain of HIV can take hold in the animals before the first blocks

it, Grant stressed that "in humans we don't know for sure if there is a window of susceptibility."

Superinfection is of concern to health officials because it may be a way for an HIV-positive person to acquire drug resistance or it may lead to more rapid disease progression. Grant noted that two studies have shown more rapid disease progression in dually infected individuals. In four of the five possible San Francisco cases, Grant said viral load increased and CD4 counts decreased after the second virus appeared.

But he noted, "We can't link superinfections to bad outcomes yet. Those who show more than one virus do get sicker faster. We don't know why yet. It could very well be that people who show two viruses have weaker immune systems."

Despite the lack of proof, some

health officials still sound alarms about superinfection and argue that due to the threat of being superinfected, positive men should wear condoms during sex. The most recent example was seen earlier this year in New York City, after a gay man who used crystal meth and reported having unsafe sex with hundreds of partners turned out to have a multiple strains of HIV resistant to most medications. Health officials in Manhattan trumpeted the case with a nationally covered news conference that many in the gay community found to be alarmist.

"Some people think that if there is any evidence of any harm with positive men having sex why not make a big deal about it. Our group feels that is not the right approach," said Grant. "I feel it is dishonest to make people afraid and sensationalize superinfection." ▼

## Serosorters

◀ page 1

Nonetheless, McConnell said HIV serosorters should be complimented for limiting HIV transmission and serosorting should be promoted as an HIV prevention strategy.

"It is something positive guys should be celebrated for and something we should support," he said.

### Health officials wary

But health officials are not yet ready to give the practice their seal of approval. Steven Tierney, the health department's director of HIV prevention, said the science is not yet there for him to promote serosorting. But he said as a member of the city's gay community, the practice makes sense.

"In terms of the health department saying this is a good strategy, it would be inappropriate for us to say HIV-positive men should go there just yet. It needs to be studied carefully," said Tierney.

The Positive Partners Study is believed to be the first study to look at serosorting. Although the practice may benefit positive men, there is concern about negative men who serosort and believe by doing so they can forgo condoms. There is no guarantee that someone who says they are negative truly does not have HIV. Also, there is concern that serosorting divides the gay community, thus adding to the stigma around HIV or giving some negative men a desire to join the positive crowd.

"I have lived in San Francisco for eight years and I was turned down many times because I was negative and the positive guys didn't want to use condoms. Is it a good thing? There are consequences to that, some negative guys feel left out," said one man in the audience who recently seroconverted.

Another man who seroconverted last spring said he decided to bareback "because I said screw it, why not."

Magnet community organizer Kevin Roe cautioned the nearly 50 men who came to the talk that "I don't think we want to say go out and fuck your brains out and don't think about anything else because there are other things to think about," such as catching STDs.

Robert Grant, a researcher with the Gladstone Institutes that is sponsoring the Positive Partners Study, advised the men that if they do bareback they need to be concerned about contracting gonorrhea, syphilis, and both hepatitis B and C.

"These things need to be on your mind and you should tell your doctor you need to be tested for syphilis every six months," he said.

Roe said it is important though, for positive men to have a frank and open discussion about barebacking and how it can affect their health.

"The community is polarized about barebacking and there are different concerns for negative men. The discussion hasn't been held about the gray in-between with barebacking," he said. "It's ei-



From left: Gladstone staff Jessie Krek, Jeff McConnell, Robert Grant, Larry Bragg, and Julia Marcus.

ther barebacking is good or barebacking is bad."

### On the radar

Serosorting first came on researchers' radar screens in the late 1990s when high-risk sex among gay men began to spike but high-risk HIV rates did not follow. Dat-

ing back to 1986 when the city's HIV infection rate had fallen from 18.4 percent to 4.2 percent, San Francisco researchers reported a 60 percent reduction in high-risk sex. Just one year later, with the infection rate at 0.7 percent, or about 1 in every 100 persons infected, researchers noted an 80 percent decline in high-risk sex among gay men.

Several years later that trend had reversed, with rates of high-risk sex up. Yet with more men reporting less condom use, more sexual partners, and STD infections up, the city's HIV incidence remained stable. The outcome flew in the face of what many expected to see: a return to staggering numbers of HIV infection.

"It is very difficult to find credible evidence that rates of HIV were going up in accordance with high-risk behavior," said McConnell who felt at the time that "the lunatic fringe" had taken over the gay community and worried about the drop off in safe sexual practices. Soon he turned his investigative attention toward serosorting as a possible explanation for what was driving the data.

In 2000 the first group of HIV-positive men and their partners enrolled in the Positive Partners

Study. According to the study data, among the first group of positive men recruited, 39 percent serosorted. By the time they left the study a year later, 47 percent were serosorting. Among the men currently enrolled in the study, 61 percent identify as serosorters.

The first study group consisted of 176 HIV-positive men averaging in age from 39 to 41. Within a three-month time frame, the men reported 1,062 sexual partnerships with nearly 5,500 episodes of anal intercourse. McConnell said the number at first "boggles the mind," but when broken down to look at high-risk sex, "the average isn't so bad."

Only 3.4 percent of the sexual intercourse was considered to be the highest risk for HIV transmission, where an HIV-positive man tops an HIV-negative man or partner of unknown status without a condom. The number is "a very small minority," said McConnell, when compared to the fact 83.5 percent of the intercourse encounters were with other positive guys, "allowing for no risk of infection."

Looking at just the number of times the men engaged in unprotected sex during a one-year period, the researchers predicted it would have led to 116 new HIV infections. But when they factored in the partners' HIV status, they whittled the number down to as few as 15 new HIV infections. And when they accounted for the sexual positioning of the HIV-positive men, whether they topped or bottomed, the researchers predicted there were as few as six new HIV infections. The positive men in the study appear to also be practicing what the researchers call "strategic positioning." The times they do have sex with a negative man or someone with unknown status, the positive men will opt to be the bottom as a way to reduce the risk for HIV transmission.

"It may still be too much but it is a different starting point than 116," said McConnell. "I think that needs to be celebrated."

Even more astounding to the researchers is that there is no HIV prevention campaign telling positive men to serosort. They are doing it on their own, and based on the study's findings, turning it into a community norm.

"No one detailed out a plan like this and handed it out. It makes it interesting that people have put together a risk reduction strategy and are putting it to use in such large numbers," said McConnell. ▼

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# Vote nears on Leno's marriage bill

by Matthew S. Bajko

As little as two days remain in Assemblyman Mark Leno's quest to find the 41 votes he needs to ensure passage of his gay marriage bill out of the Assembly. Last year, Leno (D-San Francisco) failed to muster the needed votes and pulled a similar bill in order to avoid seeing the measure go down in defeat.

This year Leno's AB19, the Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act, has sailed through several Assembly committees and Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez (D-Los Angeles) has thrown his support behind the bill, which would amend the state Family Code to define a marriage as a civil contract between two persons, instead of a civil contract between a man and a woman.

On Wednesday, May 25 the bill

cleared its final hurdle before going to the full Assembly for a final vote when it passed out of the Appropriations Committee. On May 18 the committee sent AB19 to what is called a "suspense file" after it was determined the bill would affect the state budget by over \$150,000. All bills with a fiscal impact automatically go to the file and are voted on once all other bills have been heard. With 10 of the 18-member Appropriations Committee signed on as AB19 co-authors and three other members pledging to support the bill, the vote was expected.

Now supporters are scrambling to find the necessary votes to send the bill out of the Assembly and to the state Senate. Leno said there is a slight chance the vote could come Friday, May 27, otherwise it will be brought to the floor Tuesday, May 31. As of last month, Leno needed five more votes in order to send AB19 to the state Senate.

"We are very, very close to the necessary 41 votes," Leno said Wednesday. "I have to keep reminding people that there are no



Assemblyman Mark Leno, right, was in San Diego recently, where he was honored by the Tom Homann Law Association, the city's LGBT bar association, for his work on same-sex marriage. At left is Ted Roberts, president of the law group.

certainties to the legislative process. But as I have been throughout the process, I am confident we can move this to the Senate."

Steve Hansen, Equality California associate director of legislative affairs, also sounded a positive note in a Web log after last week's committee hearing.

"The momentum is clearly on our side. Marriage equality is both the morally and fiscally right thing to do for California," wrote Hansen.

Gay rights groups have been waging their own advocacy push to wrestle up the needed votes, sending supportive religious figures and parents of gay children to Sacramento to meet with lawmakers. Responding to antigay groups who have targeted LGBT-supportive Democrats in an attempt to change their minds, LGBT lobbyists have asked supporters to call 15 Democratic Assembly members to secure their votes for AB19. In Northern California, the lawmakers facing the greatest pressure over the bill include Alberto Torrico (D-Newark); Barbara Matthews (D-Tracy); Joe Coto (D-San Jose); Joe Canciamilla (D-Pittsburg); Simon Salinas (D-Salinas); and Juan Arambula (D-Fresno). ▼

## Gay parenting

◀ page 13

She took out a restraining order against Kim after she visited the kids at their school in Boston in the fall.

"I was on a business trip. I went to their classroom and had a minute each with them," recalled Kim. "I needed to see them. I told them not to worry, I love them and I am back here fighting for them."

After hearing the oral arguments, Kim said, "I have to be able to believe what is happening here today, although extremely personal to my family, they will make the decision to protect my family. I have to leave with hope."

### Third case

In the third case, *Kristine H. v. Lisa R.*, the couple entered into a parentage judgment to secure the legal relationships between both intended parents and their child early and fast, without waiting the longer period adoptions require. The judgments also provide immediate legal ties to the child for the non-biological parent, and also cut off potential legal rights of a sperm donor or surrogate mother.

In this instance, the couple separated two years after the birth of their child and Kristine sued to have the parentage agreement invalidated. Her lawyer, Honey Kessler Amado, said Kristine entered into the agreement to preclude the father of the child, Kenneth C., from claiming his rights and to ensure Lisa would care for the child if anything happened to her. She argued that the agreement is fatally flawed because there never was a hearing to determine if Kristine understood what her constitutional rights were and if she knew she was giving them up by signing the agreement.

Justice Carlos Moreno instantly attacked that argument, saying, "Kristine was the plaintiff. Doesn't that assume she knows her rights?"

Amado also argued that the agreements bypass adoptions and therefore the court should find it void. "Our state has an adoption plan to protect children and these judgments do not protect children," she said.

If the court agreed with Kristine, Justice Kennard noted then the child would only have one mother and asked "wouldn't that run counter to California's implicit two parent policy?"

"A single mother can be a mother and a family unit, as can a single father," responded Amado. "We need to respect single parent families and not impose a nonbiological parent on the family."

Lisa's lawyer, Leslie Shear, argued it is vital that the court protect the women's daughter Lauren from what she called a "parentectomy."

"It is important to protect Lau-

ren's right to having two parents she has known since she was born," said Shear.

Shear also rejected the argument that by upholding the validity of parentage judgments couples would forego adopting, saying "the issue only arises for same-sex couples because of the social barriers that don't recognize these families. This is a made-up bogeyman. It doesn't exist."

Outside court Lisa sounded a hopeful note, saying, "I intend to celebrate Mother's Day with that little girl next year." ▼

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Here's our proposal: Because we support your efforts to promote greater diversity in the Castro, we are offering to you, the above-named organizations, and others, the opportunity to host a series of Wednesday night fund-raisers at Badlands, Detour and the Pendulum. The fund-raisers may be held at one, two, or all three bars. Hosting organizations will receive a minimum donation of \$3,000 each night, but may receive up to \$5,000 or more; the actual amount will be equal to 70% of the gross sales for all drinks served that night.

The fund-raisers will be scheduled every week until a total of \$100,000 has been donated to the hosting organizations. Does this sound like something you or your organization might be interested in? If so, please contact us for more information. This offer is subject to conditions. Call 415-626-9320 or email: [info@sfbadlands.com](mailto:info@sfbadlands.com)

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## OBITUARIES

**David Hamilton Bernard**  
June 2, 1950 — April 9, 2005

David Hamilton Bernard, longtime resident of Bernal Heights, died peacefully at home surrounded by the love of his partner of 16 years, Larry Cruz, his sister, Dorothy Jackson of Washington

D.C., other family members and many loving friends. The cause of death was AIDS-related lymphoma. David was born in Altoona, Pennsylvania, the son of sociologists Luther Lee Bernard and Jessie Bernard. He attended school at Sidwell Friends in Washington D.C., received his bachelor of arts from Haverford College, and later was awarded a Masters degree in Environmental Engineering from Drexel University. He was a man of many interests, including a deep knowledge of psychology and Eastern studies. He was a mountain climber, a triathlete, a world traveler, a gourmet cook, and the proud owner of two

Labrador retrievers, Kato and Star. A memorial to honor his life will be held at the AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park June 4, 11 a.m. A reception will follow at his home. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland Ave., San Francisco 94110. For further information regarding the service or reception please call 415-826-7140.

**Herbie "Mom" Richards**  
June 18, 1936 — May 18, 2005

Herbie "Mom" Richards passed away after a long happy life full of fun and laughter and helping friends. He is survived by his partner of 38 years, Leslie "Dog" Tollett and many dear friends.

Herbie came to San Francisco as a young man and never looked back. He found love here with his partner Dog. For many years, Herbie kept their San Francisco home (and worked) while

Dog shipped out to sea as a merchant marine.

In the 1970s to 1990s, Herbie was the cook everyone knew at Orphan Andy's Restaurant at Castro and Market. He and Dog lived above the restaurant, where they loved entertaining. Herbie was always the life of every party.

In later years, Herbie and Dog lived near Mr. Lee-Ona's Bar at Turk and Leavenworth, where Herbie socialized. Herbie was currently Miss Bunny of the Council of Grand Dukes and Grand Duchesses.

"Mom" cooked for homeless and fundraisers. He raised money to send poor children to a Sierra camp. Herbie stood in the cold in drag for countless hours to raise money for the AIDS Foundation. Herbie was also right there for any friend.

Herbie lived life one day at a time, always with a smile. We miss him.

**Luis Manuel Urena**

Luis passed away peacefully at UCSF Medical Center on April 10 surrounded by his friends after a long-fought battle with AIDS. In tribute to



his volunteer work in the community, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors officially honored Luis by closing their April 19 meeting in his memory.

Born on July 11, 1956 and a native of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, Luis is preceded in death by his father, Manuel Urena and is survived by his mother, Ofelia G. Urena; his sister, Rosarios Rivera; brother-in-law, Joe Rivera; his brother, Hector Urena; and by six nieces and nephews and a grand nephew.

After emigrating to the U.S. in 1977, Luis proudly took the Oath of Citizenship in 1997. Most recently, he was employed by Beronio Lumber in San Francisco. He became a dedicated activist and volunteer for causes in which he believed: Board Member of the Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corp., providing affordable housing for San Francisco's lowest-income residents; volunteering at the SF Food Bank; teaching AIDS prevention to young Hispanic teenagers in the school system; and playing an activist role in fighting for the legalization of medical marijuana.

He loved especially his family. Life, his circle of caring Luisfriends, his former partner, Charles Meier and their white fluffy canine companion, Blanco, and the joyful freedom of jazz dance. His infectious energy, laughter and spirited feistiness will be missed by many.

A memorial service, attended by a large gathering of residents and friends, was held at his Eddy Street apartment-residence in the Tenderloin soon after Luis' passing. On Sunday, May 15 his former partner and close friends gathered in Redwood City for a celebration of his life. His ashes will be returned to his family in El Paso, Texas to be scattered in the hills overlooking the Rio Grande River — in his adopted country, America, looking back toward Mexico, the country of his birth.

**OBITUARY POLICY**

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

# Newton Flounders, collector of gay literature, dies

by Gerard Koskovich

Newton "Bud" Flounders, a retired architect and a leading American collector of gay literature, died May 18 at the Hospice of Arizona in Phoenix from head injuries sustained in a recent fall. His death came two weeks before his 84th birthday. A resident of the San Francisco Bay Area for three decades before he moved to Phoenix in 1990, Mr. Flounders donated approximately 5,400 novels with gay male characters to the Department of Special Collections at Stanford University's Green Library over the past 15 years.

"The Flounders Gay Fiction Collection is one of the largest and most important collections of such books held by any library in the world," said Roberto Trujillo, the Frances and Charles Field curator of special collections at Stanford.

In addition to his pursuits as a collector, Mr. Flounders was an unassuming contributor to the Bay Area gay community throughout the 1970s and 1980s. In 1973, when he was in his early 50s, he became involved as a community member in the Gay People's Union at Stanford — later known as the Gay and Lesbian Alliance at Stanford — a campus group that at the time brought together Stanford students and non-students from the Peninsula community. He frequented the organization's weekly social gatherings at the Old Firehouse at Stanford for more than a decade.

From the late 1970s to the late 1980s, Mr. Flounders played a key behind-the-scenes role in the Walt Whitman Bookshop, a pioneering gay and lesbian bookstore in San Francisco owned by his close friend Charles Gilman. The two men had met in the mid-1970s when Gilman was running a general-interest bookstore in Oakland.

Mr. Flounders was born June 1, 1921, in Media, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Philadelphia, to parents of Huguenot and Pennsylvania Dutch ancestry. Reared and schooled in Media, he left his hometown at age 21 when he enlisted as a soldier in World War II. Mr. Flounders served in the Army supply division in North Africa and Italy from 1942 to 1945; he was honorably discharged at the rank of technical sergeant. After



Newton "Bud" Flounders

the war, he returned to Pennsylvania, where he graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Architecture in 1952.

In the 1994 interview, Mr. Flounders said that he had discovered gay life during his years at the university in the late 1940s. "I was 27 years old before I had my first homosexual affair — I was a late bloomer," he recalled. Taking summer jobs as a merchant marine on tankers of the Sun Oil Company, he observed gay goings-on among his fellow seamen — and soon joined in. "I had some of my earliest fun experiences aboard those tankers," he said.

Following his graduation, Mr. Flounders worked as an architect in Philadelphia, Phoenix, and Anchorage. Hired by the internationally renowned architectural firm of Edward Durrell Stone around 1960, Mr. Flounders moved to Palo Alto to assist with the design of the Stanford Medical Center. He spent the next three decades living on the Peninsula, working for several architectural firms, including one where he was involved in the development of the Bay Area Rapid Transit System.

At a gay private party on the Peninsula in 1966, Mr. Flounders met Don Silvius, a surgeon who became his life partner. For two decades, the couple lived in a classic Eichler house in Sunnyvale, where an entire room was devoted to Mr. Flounders's collection of gay books.

Following the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, the couple decided to sell their Sunnyvale house and move to Phoenix. In the 1994 interview, Mr. Flounders recalled that he couldn't afford to ship his collection, which then comprised

nearly 3,500 volumes. His connections to Stanford led him to consider the university library as a new home for the books.

"It was there that I got very excited about the idea of my little collection going to Stanford," Mr. Flounders said. "So when the idea crossed Don's and my mind to move back to Phoenix, I bemoaned the fact of what I was going to do with my collection, and David said, 'Why not donate it to the library here?' I offered it, and they said yes, they would like to have it. And within a day or two, there was a van from the Stanford campus, and a crew of young men came in and took every book I owned!"

Following his move to Phoenix, Mr. Flounders continued collecting. On average once a year for 15 years, he drove to Stanford to donate additional boxes of gay novels. By the time of his most recent delivery of 14 boxes in January 2005, the Flounders Collection at Stanford had become one of the largest gatherings of English-language gay fiction in any university library in the world. Mr. Flounders's unpublished bibliography of his collection, along with documentation of his activities as a collector, are preserved in the archives of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Transgender Historical Society in San Francisco.

Mr. Flounders is survived by Don Silvius of Phoenix, his partner of nearly 40 years. In addition, he is survived by his brother, Edward Flounders; his sister-in-law, Barbara Flounders; his niece, Jeanne Ziegler; and his nephew, James Flounders, all of Sarasota, Florida; and by friends in Arizona and Northern California. A memorial service will be held in Phoenix on June 4. According to Silvius, Mr. Flounders's ashes will be scattered near Sedona in the Arizona desert.

Donations in memory of Bud Flounders may be made to the Department of Special Collections, Green Library, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305, or to the GLBT Historical Society, 657 Mission Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94105. ▼

Gerard Koskovich is a San Francisco-based editor, writer, and dealer in rare queer books. He serves on the board of directors of the GLBT Historical Society.

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# May days

by Jim Provenzano

This weekend is full of sports events fit for all kinds of athletic fans or participants. No space to be prosaic this week; just the facts, if you don't mind.

## USGO tennis

Courts at Golden Gate Park, San Francisco State University, and the San Francisco Tennis Club will be filled with competition between hundreds of GLBT players in singles, doubles, and mixed doubles as part of the 25th annual United States Gay Open tennis tournament (see last week's "Sports Complex").

Organized by the Gay and Lesbian Tennis Federation, the event will draw players from the Bay Area and around the country. Tennis matches will be held throughout the weekend, with finals on Monday, May 30.

Tennis players will also be attending a "Draw" party and reception tonight (Thursday, May 26) at the GLBT Historical Society to see the "Sporting Life: GLBT Athletics and Cultural Change from the 1960s to Today" exhibit (guest curated by this columnist). GLTF President Steven Brown has also created a special temporary display of the history of the USGO's first 24 years. For info, visit [www.gltf.org](http://www.gltf.org).

## Golden Bear Classic softball tourney

Dozens of the Bay Area's nearly 50 softball teams will be a part

of this annual competition hosted by the venerable San Francisco Gay Softball League. All games take place in Sunnyvale at the Twin Creeks Sports Complex.

Last year's classic saw 70 teams from as far away as New York City converge on the beautiful San Francisco Bay Area to compete.

This year's classic has been named both a women's World Series qualifier and a NAGAAA-sponsored Open A Division tournament, making for a great weekend of intense but friendly competition. The classic will offer competition in all divisions (open A, B, C, and D, and women's competitive, alternative, and recreational).

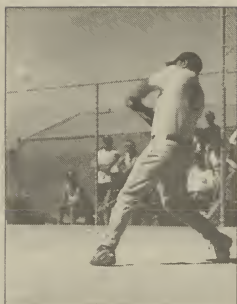
Social events, including registration, reception, and raffle parties will take place at the Sheraton Sunnyvale. All games and the barbecue dinner and awards banquet will be at the Twin Creeks Sports Complex. For info, call the SFGSL hotline at (415) 436-0707, or visit [www.sfgsl.org](http://www.sfgsl.org).

## Wrestling and martial arts

Another celebrated anniversary is the 20th edition of Golden Gate Wrestling Club's wrestling tournament, partnered once again with local martial artists.

This year, Triangle Martial Arts Club of San Francisco and the International Association of Gay and Lesbian Martial Artists will host an array of clinics and competition guaranteed to put a kick in your weekend.

Wrestlers from New York City, Rochester, Seattle, San Diego, Los



Softball in Sunnyvale

Angeles, Sacramento, Chicago, and even Canada are set to grapple in their various weight classes in women's and men's freestyle categories. This is a sanctioned tournament with a clinic on Saturday, and a review of the new freestyle rules and technique, courtesy of a visiting referee.

Open mat time for novices and skilled wrestlers alike will bring some of the GLBT community's high-ranking Gay Games and regional tournament medalists together.

Martial arts events will take place at three locations this weekend. On Friday May 27, Triangle Tae Kwon Do Club will host a public "Self-Defense for Everyone" seminar from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street. Info: (415) 865-5555; [www.sfcenter.org](http://www.sfcenter.org).

On Saturday, May 28, from 10 a.m. to noon, a Gay Games competitor/officials workshop will be held to assist IAGLMA members achieve officiating certification for Gay Games VII. Also on Saturday, martial arts seminars will be held from 1 to 5 p.m.

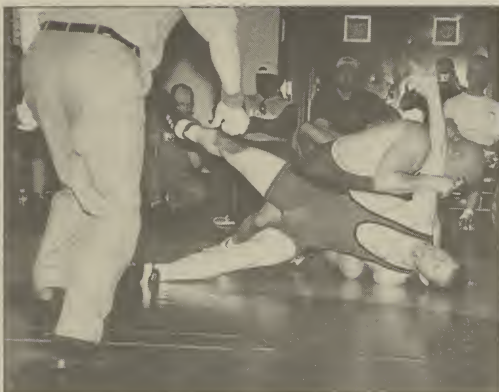
Both events will be at the Hwa Rang Kwan Dojang, where Triangle Martial Arts Association's San Francisco chapter has established a new permanent home, thanks to a very welcome contribution from Master Steve Rapport of the Hwa Rang Kwan Martial Arts Center.

For event info, contact Andy Maguire (415) 566-6121, or visit [www.iaglm.org](http://www.iaglm.org) or [www.trianglekt.org](http://www.trianglekt.org).

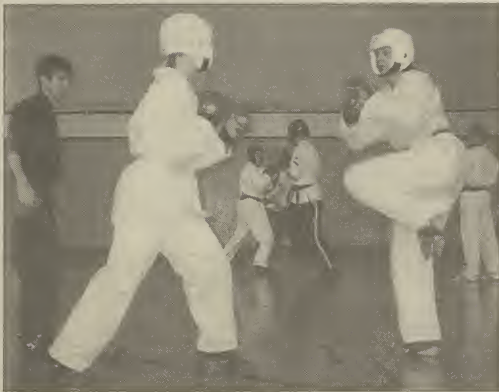
On Saturday evening, May 28, wrestlers, martial artists, and their friends will attend a reception at the GLBT Historical Society to see "Sporting Life." The reception is from 6 to 8 p.m., and is open to the public. Refreshments will be provided. Among the new items on view will be a video of Gay Games II wrestling competition, held here in San Francisco in 1986.

The historical society is located at 657 Mission Street, Suite 300 (between 2nd and New Montgomery streets). Info: (415) 777-5455 or [www.glbthistory.org](http://www.glbthistory.org).

Sunday will be a big day for wrestlers and martial artists. The martial arts tournament will include forms, point sparring, and



Grappling in Glen Park



Many martial artists

self-defense competition from noon to 5 p.m. At the same time, the wrestling tournament will also see sanctioned competition. Both tournaments will be at Glen Park Recreation Center, Bosworth

Street at O'Shaughnessy.

For information on hours of the wrestling events, fees and requirements for participation, call (415) 282-2429, or visit [www.ggwc.org](http://www.ggwc.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Easy riders

For cyclists, enjoy Critical Mass this Friday, May 27 at 6 p.m., beginning at Justin Herman Plaza (or, for drivers, be warned about this monthly activist event on wheels).

On Saturday, May 28, enjoy a more relaxed ride as San Francisco Bicycle Coalition members trek to Muir Woods. Meet at 10 a.m. at McLaren Lodge, at Stanyan and Fell streets.

The ride will cross the Golden Gate Bridge and descend to Sausalito where riders will follow the bike path to Highway 1, and on to Muir Woods. The trip is about five hours and 30 miles, and is moderately difficult. Bring food and water and money to enter the park. For more information, contact Brandon at [brandonbaunach@dbarchitect.com](mailto:brandonbaunach@dbarchitect.com), or visit [www.sfbike.org](http://www.sfbike.org).

### Bowling league

Now is the time to join a new GBLT (and straight-friendly) summer Wednesday night bowling league that starts June 1 at Serra Bowl in Daly City. Any teams or individuals that wish to join the league need to be present for the meeting.

This is a very popular league because it's a "handicapped" league, meaning that bowlers of all skill levels will compete evenly with each other. So if you have always wanted to bowl, here is your chance. Bowling will normally start around 7:30 p.m. and end at around 9:30 p.m. Cost is approximately \$17 per night. Serra Bowl is located at 3301 Junipero Serra Boulevard. Questions or more info: (650) 992-3444. ▼

## Rules of gender

◀ page 15

Heins believes that physical violence within schools, such as the shootings at Columbine High School, is a rare event that the media focuses upon. "Schools tend to be a very safe place for kids. But if we talk about violence in terms of bullying and verbal harassment, that is all too prevalent."

Crooms feels that the media's focus on the most extreme issues of violence in schools has worked to desensitize people to lower levels of violence. "It ignores the reality that for years, so many kids'

days have started with walking through a metal detector or pat down. ... We have written off the possibility of peace and safety in certain schools. The ordinariness of it is the most appalling."

"As a parent, talking about these issues in school is important," said Susan Wefald, director of institutional planning at the Ms. Foundation. "One of the root causes of violence against women is adherence to narrowly defined gender roles and straight definitions of masculinity within families. We need to free boys and men from those narrow definitions so that they can be whole people."

"One of the worst things we can do is not talk about it," said

Heins. "The pressure [on kids] to conform is huge." He quoted Elie Wiesel, "Silence always helps the oppressor, never the oppressed."

"The workplace is not a level playing field for men and women, largely because of gender expectations and preconceptions," said Spence. "Gender, by and large, determines career experiences. It was doing it 20 years ago; it is still doing it today."

She said that is changing, slowly. "When mothers and fathers work together, and when they work in the workplace, kids see it and accept it. They think it's natural. When a parent decides to stay at home, the kids should see it as a choice." ▼

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Pharmacy

◀ page 2

er than what the FMLA provides for, so this should be a wake-up call to corporations doing business in California that FMLA is not the only state they need to know."

Stevens agreed.

"This was a very strong case that had clear merit and a client who clearly needed help. But the case also had wider importance — out of state corporations shouldn't come to California and ignore California's better laws," said Stevens.

CVS headquarters is based in Rhode Island but the company is the largest retail pharmacy chain in the country, with more than 5,500 locations in 36 states. "They are large enough to be much more responsible than they were in this matter," said Stevens.

ALRP Executive Director Bill

Herish called the Daniels case "an example of the San Francisco HIV/AIDS service agency network at its best," noting how PRC, HRC, and ALRP all joined forces to seek justice for a victim of discrimination.

Daniels agreed.

"I'm really glad I had these organizations like ALRP to put me in touch with my attorneys," he said. "And if PRC hadn't sponsored that meeting I probably wouldn't be here right now."

CVS did not return calls by press time, but Stevens told the B.A.R. that the company filed a notice of intent to appeal, which reserves its right to pursue that avenue.

"I wouldn't be surprised if they appealed," said Stevens. "I expect they are going to object to everything for the sole purpose of delay and mean-spiritedness which has been a feature of their behavior throughout this case." ▼

## Barnestorming

◀ page 9

and Supervisor **Sophie Maxwell** was there, joining about 60 activists to educate the community about the discrimination accusations against the bar. A report issued last month by the San Francisco Human Rights Commission found that bar owner **Les Natali** discriminated against both employees and patrons; Natali has appealed the findings.

Maxwell joined a who's who of LGBT leaders: Pride Chair **Joey Cain**, Alice Co-Chair **Laura Spanjian**, Young Dems President **Owen Stephens**, Democratic Central Committee members **Robert Haaland** and **Michael Goldstein**, Pride at Work's **Sally Ann Buchmann**, **Calvin Gipson**, **Rebecca Prozan**, **Lisa Williams**, **Tommi Avicoli Mecca**, **Julius Turman**, **Mark Rhoades**, and **John Newsome** were all there.

The protest earned marks for creativity. Instead of repetitive chants, protesters offered a cheer inspired by the movie *Bring It On*: "Brrrr, it's cold out here...there must be bigots in the atmosphere."

While there was no cover charge and no line, there were a number of multiracial employees on Castro Street handing out Badlands flyers, and the scene inside Badlands wasn't that different from usual. There were African American bartenders and patrons inside, but the fact that all cocktails were half-price probably increased patronage. Here's hoping Les Natali and And Castro for All can work something out to bring this dispute to an end. ▼

**Bill Barnes** is an elected member of the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee. His e-mail is [billbarnes@hotmail.com](mailto:billbarnes@hotmail.com).

## GLAAD

◀ page 3

turned all our efforts to determining the range of options open to us, in a good faith effort to adapt our plans to the reality of a larger situation we did not create and could not control," stated Garry in her letter.

Changing venues is expected to cost the agency at least \$100,000. GLAAD is working with lawyers and the St. Francis to negotiate terminating its contract. The union has offered to help with that task, and GLAAD is hopeful the community will purchase tickets to the event to ensure it re-

coups all of its costs.

"We simply cannot know at this juncture whether we will recover the additional costs involved in mounting the event at the new location, or whether a failure to do so will come at a cost to the programs it has been designated to fund," stated Garry. "We have, instead, elected to act on what we do know — that in this as in all situations, GLAAD must be guided by its foundational commitment to the pursuit of fairness and equality for all. Finally, that must be our bottom line." ▼

To purchase tickets, visit [www.glaad.org](http://www.glaad.org).

## Senate deal

◀ page 12

Republicans and a great victory for united Democrats."

"We share the disappointment, outrage, and sense of abandonment felt by millions of conservative Americans who helped put Republicans in power last November," said Dobson. "I am certain that these voters will remember both Democrats and Republicans who betrayed their trust."

The seven Republican senators who signed on to the compromise, in addition to McCain and Warner, were Mike DeWine (Ohio), Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins (Maine), Lindsey Graham (South Carolina), and Lincoln Chaffee (Rhode Island).

The seven Democrats included

Ben Nelson (Nebraska), Robert Byrd (West Virginia), Mary Landrieu (Louisiana), Ken Salazar (Colorado), Mark Pryor (Arkansas), Joseph Lieberman (Connecticut), and Daniel Inouye (Hawaii).

Lambda Legal, which only recently entered the political fray over judicial nominees, plans to oppose another nominee whose chance for a floor vote is still uncertain. That nominee is Terrence W. Boyle, whom Bush nominated to the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Boyle, a former aide to virulently antigay Senator Jesse Helms (now retired), was said to have a "really horrific track record" on the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibits discrimination against people with HIV and other disabilities. ▼

## LEGAL NOTICES

## STATEMENT FILE A-0284941-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: B + L Interiors, LLC, 478 10th Ave., San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by a limited liability company, signed Cray Baumann Flynn. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/28/05. **MAY 5, 12, 19, 26 2005**

## STATEMENT FILE A-0285008-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Fruitful Grounds, 1813 Fulton St. San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by co-partners, signed Jorge Cortes. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 10, 1995. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/02/05. **MAY 5, 12, 19, 26 2005**

## STATEMENT FILE A-0284956-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Tableworks, 2508 Mission St., San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Jamie Owens. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/29/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/29/05. **MAY 5, 12, 19, 26 2005**

## STATEMENT FILE A-0284918-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: CAL-AM Construction Company, 2427 37th Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed David Chang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/27/05. **MAY 5, 12, 19, 26 2005**

## STATEMENT FILE A-0284865-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Hanke and Company, 100 Bush St. Ste. 1675, San Francisco Ca. 94104-3943. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Milo F. Hanke. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/26/05. **MAY 5, 12, 19, 26 2005**

## STATEMENT FILE A-0284602-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: TrainerMartin, 160 Caselli Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Martin Spector. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 4/15/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/15/05. **MAY 5, 12, 19, 26 2005**

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05542001

In the matter of the application of Win Thaw Oo for change of name. The application of Win Thaw Oo for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Win Thaw Oo has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Ryan Chan. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 16th day of June, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **MAY 5, 12, 19, 26 2005**

## STATEMENT FILE A-0285178-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lassen Tours, 391 Sutter St. Ste. 504, San Francisco, Ca. 94108. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Judy Swen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/6/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/6/05. **MAY 12, 19, 26 JUNE 2 2005**

## STATEMENT FILE A-0285004-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Art & Soul Gallery, 1844 Divisadero St. San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Chesney Rheumae. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 4/28/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/2/05. **MAY 12, 19, 26 JUNE 2 2005**

## STATEMENT FILE A-0285102-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Seal Rock Realty, 1775 35th Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Nick Kaskalian. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/3/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/4/05. **MAY 12, 19, 26 JUNE 2 2005**

## STATEMENT FILE A-0285198-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: iStudio89 Franchise Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Long Wu. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/1/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/9/05. **MAY 12, 19, 26 JUNE 2 2005**

## CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO



## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS - FOR AS-NEEDED ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING SERVICES

Solicitation 05-620-RFQ-017

The San Francisco Housing Authority is soliciting Statements of Qualifications from professional firms to provide as-needed Electrical Engineering Services for a two-year period with a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$200,000.

Responses are due by 2:00 P.M. on Tuesday, June 14, 2005. The RFQ document is available at the Authority's office at 1815 Egbert Ave., San Francisco. Contact Carolina Penate, 415-715-3171, e-mail [penatec@sfha.org](mailto:penatec@sfha.org) or download at <http://www.ci.sf.ca.us/sfha/prcmmnt/current.htm>.

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## RFQ - SF CARES

The Department of Children, Youth and their Families and First 5 San Francisco seek to identify a qualified partner to administer the San Francisco Compensation and Retention Encouragement Stability (SF CARES) program. The program provides funds to the partner to provide guidance and cash stipends to early care teachers who continue to pursue academic and professional development opportunities. Program goals and desirable qualifications are described in the RFQ. Up to \$3.9 million is budgeted for this project in FY2005/06. The RFQ is available at 1390 Market St., Ste. 900, San Francisco or at [www.dcyf.org](http://www.dcyf.org). A non-mandatory bidder's conference will be held on May 31, 2005 at 1390 Market St., Ste. 318 at 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The proposal deadline is June 10, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.

## RFP - PROVIDER AND ENROLLMENT AGENCY

First 5 San Francisco seeks to identify a qualified agency interested in participating in contract negotiations to be the Provider and Enrollment Agency (PEA) for Preschool for All (PFA) in San Francisco County. The successful Agency and its subcontractors/partners (if any) will be expected to work closely with First 5 San Francisco and its other PFA partners to coordinate reimbursements to providers and to assist families with PFA enrollment. The PEA will be a key partner in the Preschool for All Initiative and must support First 5 San Francisco's goal of ensuring universal access to high quality preschool for all 4-year-olds in San Francisco. Up to \$250,000 have been allocated for the first year of the project. Desirable qualifications are described in the RFP. The RFP is available at 1390 Market St., Ste. 900, San Francisco or at [www.sfkids.org](http://www.sfkids.org). A non-mandatory bidder's conference will be held on May 31, 2005 at 1390 Market St., Ste. 318 at 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The proposal deadline is June 10, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Please complete a meeting information/public noticing survey online at <http://www.sfgov.org/site/sdbsupvns> or call (415) 554-5184 for a survey form.

PUBLIC NOTICE  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

San Francisco Community College District is accepting proposals for a food and coffee bar on the third floor of the temporary Mission Campus, located at 375 Alabama Street, San Francisco. An open house to view the space will be held on Wednesday, June 1, 2005 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.. Bids are due no later than Monday, June 27, 2005.

To sign up for the open house and to receive a proposal packet, please contact the Chief Administrative Services Office, Stephen J. Herman at (415) 241-2327 or his secretary Ms. Yolanda Panem at (415) 487-2417.

## STATEMENT FILE A-0285165-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bureau, 2019 Hyde St. San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Lawrence Li. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 4/26/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/6/05. **MAY 19, 26 JUNE 2, 9 2005**

## STATEMENT FILE A-0284986-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Afu Home Care Agency, 1100 Felton St. San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Esther Lowman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/23/02. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/29/05. **MAY 19, 26 JUNE 2, 9 2005**

## STATEMENT FILE A-0285237-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Maid Organic, 17 Bob Kaufman Aly. San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual, signed J. Gerrit Veneman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/10/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/10/05. **MAY 19, 26 JUNE 2, 9 2005**

## STATEMENT FILE A-0285383-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Eikon Design Group, 20 Cerritos San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Gene G. Relampagos. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/16/05. **MAY 19, 26 JUNE 2, 9 2005**

## STATEMENT FILE A-0285384-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: 1) Walker 2.) Walker Bags, 81 Dorman Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Eveline Parker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/16/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/16/05. **MAY 19, 26 JUNE 2, 9 2005**

## STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #261814

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as Afu Home Care Agency located at 14 University St. San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business was conducted by a general partnership signed Esther Lowman. The fictitious name was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/23/02. **MAY 19, 26 JUNE 2, 9 2005**

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05542055

In the matter of the application of Wei Chong for change of name. The application of Wei Chong for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Wei Chong has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Wei Zhong. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 7th day of July, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **MAY 19, 26, JUNE 2, 9 2005**



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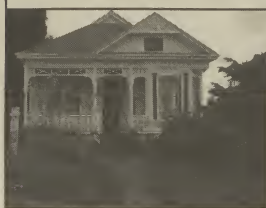


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## LEGAL NOTICES

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05542072**  
In the matter of the application of Adam Lee Cronin for change of name. The application of Adam Lee Cronin for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Adam Lee Cronin has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Alessandro DelNino. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 14th day of July, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.  
MAY 19, 26, JUNE 2, 9 2005

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**  
To whom it may concern: The name of the applicants is/are Residence Inn By Marriott Inc. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 71 Stevenson Street, Suite #1500 San Francisco, Ca. 94105, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 1350 Veterans Blvd. South San Francisco, Ca. 94080. Type of License applied for: 20 - OFF SALE BEER AND WINE- MAY 19, 26 JUNE 2, 2005

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**  
To whom it may concern: The name of the applicants is/are Tsui Joe Inc. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 71 Stevenson Street, Suite #1500 San Francisco, Ca. 94105, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 245 S. Airport Blvd. South San Francisco, Ca. 94080. Type of License applied for: 41 - ON-SALE BEER AND WINE - EATING PLACE MAY 19, 26 JUNE 2, 2005

**STATEMENT FILE A-0285264-00**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Paris Roosevelt Productions, 1261 Bay St. San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Phoebe Rubin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/28/98. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/11/05.  
MAY 26 JUNE 2, 9, 16 2005

**STATEMENT FILE A-0285385-00**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Lombard Street Loan Co., 940 Bay St. #18 San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Fred Koopman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/12/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/16/05.  
MAY 26 JUNE 2, 9, 16 2005

**STATEMENT FILE A-0285442-00**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Belmont Hardware, 115 Wisconsin St. San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Bradley A. Clore. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/06/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/19/05.  
MAY 26 JUNE 2, 9, 16 2005

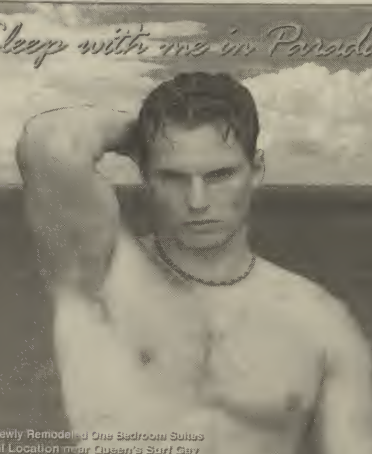
**STATEMENT FILE A-0285161-00**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Web Caddy, 2121 Evans #G San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Christopher Sweis. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/06/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/06/05.  
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## LEGAL NOTICES

**STATEMENT FILE A-0285408-00**  
The following person(s) are doing business  
as: Ideland Media, 1637 Clay St. #4 San  
Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is  
conducted by an individual, signed Jonathan  
Lanford. The registrant(s) commenced to  
transact business under the above listed  
fictitious business name or names on N/A. The  
statement was filed with the City and County  
of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/17/05.  
MAY 26 JUNE 2, 9, 16 2005

**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT  
OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME: #263748**  
The following person(s) have abandoned the  
use of the fictitious business name known as  
Lombard Street Loan located at 940 Bay  
St. #18 San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This  
business was conducted by a general part-  
nership signed Fred Koopman. The ficti-  
tious name was filed with the City and  
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/16/03.  
MAY 26 JUNE 2, 9, 16 2005

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR  
CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF AL-  
COHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE**  
To whom it may concern: The name of the  
applicant is/are James Edward Hooker Jr.  
and Sandra Ann Vanslyke. The applicants  
listed above are applying to the Depart-  
ment of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 71  
Stevenson Street, Suite #1500 San Fran-  
cisco, Ca. 94105, to sell alcoholic bever-  
ages at 35 Sixth St. San Francisco, Ca.  
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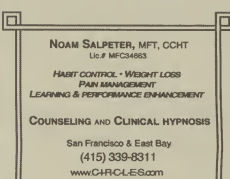
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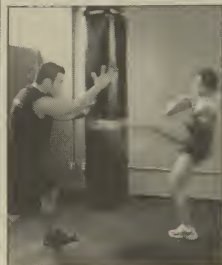
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Our bar columnists visit  
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Big whoop at NCTC!  
Howard Crabtree's back  
in 'Whoop-Dee-Doo!'

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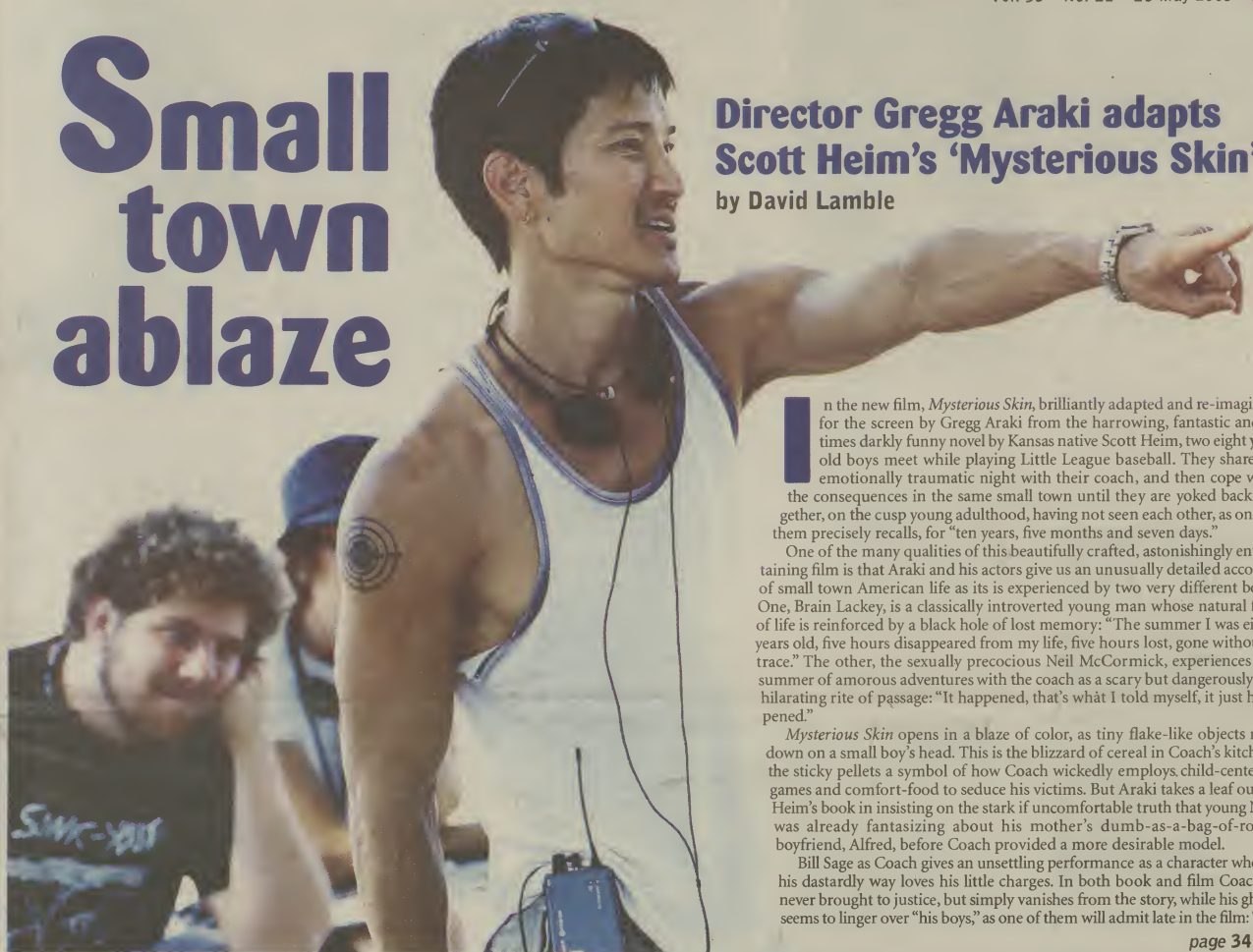
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Vol. 35 • No. 21 • 26 May 2005

## Small town ablaze

### Director Gregg Araki adapts Scott Heim's 'Mysterious Skin'

by David Lamble



In the new film, *Mysterious Skin*, brilliantly adapted and re-imagined for the screen by Gregg Araki from the harrowing, fantastic and at times darkly funny novel by Kansas native Scott Heim, two eight year old boys meet while playing Little League baseball. They share an emotionally traumatic night with their coach, and then cope with the consequences in the same small town until they are yoked back together, on the cusp young adulthood, having not seen each other, as one of them precisely recalls, for "ten years, five months and seven days."

One of the many qualities of this beautifully crafted, astonishingly entertaining film is that Araki and his actors give us an unusually detailed account of small town American life as it is experienced by two very different boys. One, Brain Lackey, is a classically introverted young man whose natural fear of life is reinforced by a black hole of lost memory: "The summer I was eight years old, five hours disappeared from my life, five hours lost, gone without a trace." The other, the sexually precocious Neil McCormick, experiences the summer of amorous adventures with the coach as a scary but dangerously exhilarating rite of passage: "It happened, that's what I told myself, it just happened."

*Mysterious Skin* opens in a blaze of color, as tiny flake-like objects rain down on a small boy's head. This is the blizzard of cereal in Coach's kitchen, the sticky pellets a symbol of how Coach wickedly employs child-centered games and comfort-food to seduce his victims. But Araki takes a leaf out of Heim's book in insisting on the stark if uncomfortable truth that young Neil was already fantasizing about his mother's dumb-as-a-bag-of-rocks boyfriend, Alfred, before Coach provided a more desirable model.

Bill Sage as Coach gives an unsettling performance as a character who in his dastardly way loves his little charges. In both book and film Coach is never brought to justice, but simply vanishes from the story, while his ghost seems to linger over "his boys," as one of them will admit late in the film: "It's

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## Gay fiction-writers speak out

Four authors discuss 'the gay novel' in Palm Springs by David Batterson

Novelists Christopher Rice, William Mann, Dan Boyle and Trebor Healey came to the desert this spring to discuss *The Purple Quill - Writing the Gay Novel*, as part of the First Annual Palm Springs Book Festival, hosted by Peppertree Bookstore. Marc Thomson, senior staff writer at *Desert Post Weekly*, served as moderator of the gay novel dialogue. The first question to the panel was, "What is a gay novel?"

William Mann, the most prolific writer of the group (*All American Boy*, *The Grave Passions*, *Edge of Midnight: The Life of John Schlesinger*), answered by saying, "I don't know. Is there such a thing? I'm the senior member of this panel, and I can remember the gay book boom of the '90s. I remember being on panels with people like Armistead Maupin and Edmund White. They would talk about it being so important to have this construct of the gay novel," he said, "because up until the '70s, there wasn't such a thing."

"Of course, there were the works of James Baldwin and the plays of Tennessee Williams. These were gay works. I think," he said, "we have moved beyond the sense of 'this book is a gay book and this book is not.' I think it's more important to talk about the gay market."

Mann said his fiction books have been targeted "primarily toward the gay market, especially *The Men from the Boys* and *Where the Boys Are*. That's wonderful to me." Mann stated he's "happy to have a gay readership primarily. We think of

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From left: Trebor Healey, William Mann, moderator Marc Thompson, Christopher Rice, and Dan Boyle.

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS



# The Publishing Triangle's 17th Annual Triangle Awards presented

## Edward Field, Michael Kearns receive Lifetime Achievement Awards

The 17th Annual Triangle Awards, honoring the best lesbian and gay fiction, nonfiction, and poetry published in 2004, were presented on May 10 at the Tishman Auditorium of the New School for Social Research in New York.

The Publishing Triangle association of lesbians and gay men in publishing began honoring a gay or lesbian writer for his or her body of work a few months after the organization was founded in 1989, and has now partnered with the Ferro-Grumley Literary Awards and the Robert Chesley Foundation to present an impressive array of awards each spring.

Edward Field is the 2005 recipient of the Publishing Triangle's Bill Whitehead Award for Lifetime Achievement, named in honor of a legendary editor of the 1970s and '80s. Field, the first male poet ever recognized by this award, is the author of *A Frieze for a Tem-*



Edward Field.

*ple of Love, Magic Words, Counting Myself Lucky*, and others. Joan Larkin, one of this year's Whitehead judges, called Field "one of the major American poets since the mid-20th century, and a truly indispensable artist." The Bill Whitehead Award is given to a man in odd-numbered years and a woman in even years, and the winner receives \$3,000. Poet and editor David Groff introduced Field, saying, "His poems are easily accessible, their language deceptively plainspoken."

The Publishing Triangle presented a special Leadership Award to The Lesbian Herstory Archives, the largest and oldest lesbian archive in the world. Founded in the mid-'70s by a group of women concerned about the failure of mainstream publishers, libraries, and research institutions to value lesbian culture, this archive houses more than 20,000 books, along with thousands of photographs, magazines, files, film and video footage, and other materials. Its headquarters in a Brooklyn, NY

brownstone preserve many publications that no other library or archive originally deemed important enough to keep. Deborah Edel accepted the award, presented by Triangle co-chair Carol Rosenfeld, on behalf of the Archive.

The Publishing Triangle established its poetry awards in 2001. Each recipient receives \$250.

The Thom Gunn Award was known as the Triangle Award for Gay Male Poetry until this year. In her opening remarks, Publishing Triangle co-chair Carol Rosenfeld announced that the award was being renamed to honor the author of *The Man with Night Suits* (1992), *Boss Cupid* (2000); the winner of the first Triangle Award for Gay Male Poetry; and other works. The British-born Gunn, a longtime resident of San Francisco, died on April 25, 2004, at the age of 74.

Winner, The Thom Gunn Award for Gay Poetry: Carl Phillips, *The Rest of Love* (Farrar Straus Giroux)

Finalists: Ron Mohring, *Survivable World* (Word Works); D.A. Powell, *Cocktails* (Graywolf Press)

The Audre Lorde Award honors the American poet, essayist, librarian, and teacher. Lorde (1934-1992) was nominated for the National Book Award for *From a Land Where Other People Live* and was the poet laureate of New York State in 1991. She received the Publishing Triangle's Bill Whitehead Award for Lifetime Achievement shortly before her death. Among her 16 books are *Zami* (1982) and *A Burst of Light* (1989).

Winner, The Audre Lorde Award for Lesbian Poetry: Maureen Seaton, *Venus Examines Her Breast* (Carnegie Mellon University Press)

Finalists: Adrienne Rich, *The*

*School Among the Ruins* (W.W. Norton); Lee Ann Roripaugh, *Year of the Snake* (Southern Illinois University Press)

The Publishing Triangle began giving the Shilts-Grahn awards for nonfiction in 1997. Each recipient receives \$1,000. The Judy Grahn Award honors the American writer, cultural theorist and activist (b. 1940) best known for *The Common Woman* (1969) and *Another Mother Tongue* (rev. ed., 1984). It recognizes the best non-fiction book of the year affecting lesbian lives — the book may be by a lesbian, for example, about a lesbian or lesbian culture, or both.

Winner, The Judy Grahn Award for Lesbian Nonfiction: Alison Smith, *Name All the Animals* (Scribner)

Finalists: Alexis De Veaux, *Warrior Poet: A Life of Audre Lorde* (W.W. Norton); Evelyn C. White, *Alice Walker* (W.W. Norton)

The Randy Shilts Award honors the journalist whose groundbreaking work on the AIDS epidemic for the *San Francisco Chronicle* made him a hero to many in the community. Shilts (1951-94) was the author of *The Mayor of Castro Street*, *And the Band Played On*, and *Conduct Unbecoming*.

Winner, The Randy Shilts Award for Gay Nonfiction: David K. Johnson, *The Lavender Scare: The Cold War Prosecution of Gays and Lesbians in the Federal Government* (University of Chicago Press)

Finalists: David Carter, *Stonewall: The Riots That Sparked the Gay Revolution* (St. Martin's); Graham Robb, *Strangers: Homosexual Love in the Nineteenth Century* (W.W. Norton)

The Ferro-Grumley Awards for lesbian and gay fiction were established in 1988, to recognize, promote excellence in, and give greater access to fiction-writing from lesbian and gay points of view. The awards honor the memory of authors Robert Ferro (*The Blue Star*, *Second Son*) and Michael Grumley (*Life Drawing*), who were life partners and died that year of AIDS, within weeks of each other. Two awards are given each year, each carrying an honorarium of \$1,000. A new committee of six judges (three women and three men) is formed each year. Judges are selected from throughout the US and Canada, from the arts, media, publishing, bookselling, and related fields.

Winner, The Ferro-Grumley Award for Lesbian Fiction: Stacey D'Erasmus, *A Seahorse Year* (Houghton Mifflin)

Finalists: Emma Donoghue, *Life Mask* (Harcourt); Heather Lewis, *Notice* (Serpent's Tail)

Winner, The Ferro-Grumley Award for Gay Fiction: Adam Berlin, *Belmondo Stories* (St. Martin's Press)

Finalists: Colm Tóibín, *The Master* (Scribner); Jim Tushinski, *Van Allen's Ecstasy* (Southern Tier Editions/Harrington Park Press)

The Robert Chesley Foundation, named for the late playwright whose play *Jerker* was the first play about AIDS to be staged



Michael Kearns.

in the United States, presented its 2005 awards for playwrighting. This year's co-winners are Michael Kearns (Lifetime Achievement Award) and Jorge Ignacio Cortiñas (Emerging Playwright). Past Chesley recipients include Rebecca Ransom, Jane Shepard, Maria Irene Fornes, Christopher Shinn, Doric Wilson, Lisa Kron, Susan Miller, Robert Patrick, Victor Lodato, Chey Yu, Madeline Olnek, Jeff Weiss, Rev. Al Carmines, and H. M. Koutoukas.

Michael Kearns has been juggling a mainstream film and television career with a prolific career in the theater for three decades. His theater pieces include *Barriers*, *Blessings*, and *Who's Afraid of Edward Albee?*, and his work as a solo artist has been acclaimed internationally. He is also a director, producer, acting teacher, and the author of five theater books, including *T-Cells & Sympathy*. Kearns co-wrote the screenplay and is featured in *Nine Lives*, a Dean Howell film. His newest solo work, *Make Love Not War*, will premiere on June 4 at the Gallery Theatre in Los Angeles. Mr. Kearns received his award from Caroline Kava.

Jorge Ignacio Cortiñas is an Artistic Associate at INTAR Theater. His plays have been workshopped at the Joseph Papp Public Theater, South Coast Repertory, and the Arena. The South Florida Critics Circle gave his *Sleepwalkers*, produced by the Area Stage in 1999, a Carbonell Award for Best New Work. His latest play, *Tight Embrace*, will receive its premiere at INTAR in 2005, and he is currently under commission from the Mark Taper Forum. The award was presented by Jorge Cachiero.

The Robert Chesley Foundation was founded in 1991 by playwright Victor Bumbalo to honor the memory of Robert Chesley by recognizing the work of openly gay and lesbian playwrights. Each year, the foundation honors a playwright who has either contributed significantly to the growth of gay and lesbian images in theatre, or is at the start of a promising career. Robert Chesley was born in 1943, and was among the first playwrights to record the effects of AIDS on gay men and women. His plays include *Night Sweat*, *The Dog Plays and Jerker*. He died of complications from AIDS in 1990. ▼

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by Richard Dodds

Last year, a bill of Albee and Pinter closed out the Theatre Rhino season. This year, it's Euripides and Fisher.

That's John Fisher, who 11 years ago decided to write his own show when his first choice was unavailable. He staged it at UC Berkeley on a \$200 budget, and then saw it grow into one the Bay Area's biggest homegrown commercial hits.

Now he's returning to *Medea: The Musical*, this time at Theatre Rhino, where Fisher became artistic director a few years ago. "I wanted to end the season with a musical, something fun and local and gay," he said. "So I thought, 'Why don't I just put on my show?' It's fun for me and I think it's fun for the audience."

Fisher has made some changes for the Rhino production, opening this week. "I always adapt it for the people who are in it, and none of these people have done it before, so it's kind of exciting." And he's cut for length. "The earlier version," Fisher said, "was, like, so long."

But otherwise, this is the full show. "It's sort of weird because I've never done it in a theater this small, so it seems absurdly large."

In addition to writing it and directing it, Fisher was in the original production — and he's doing that again. After he couldn't get right to the notorious flop musical *Carrie*, he decided to write a show "about how I put on shows, like a peek behind the scenes." But the musical, he added, "makes us look a lot crankier and a lot more interesting than I think we probably are."

In his theatrical version of himself, Fisher plays the "uber faggot" director staging a gay version of *Medea*. The mounting backstage crises are topped when the gay leading man finds himself falling in love with a woman who may have ulterior motives to encourage this reversal of sexuality.

Hidden behind the farce is a message that turns up in most of Fisher's plays. "It's this thing I've got about sexual fluidity," he said. "We're arrogant to go through life saying we are this or we are that."

*Medea: The Musical* has found life outside of SF, including runs in Seattle and Los Angeles, and it almost made it to New York.

"These producers got excited about doing it in New York, but then I think they got cold feet because they wanted me to do rewrites which basically meant taking me out of it," Fisher said. "They wanted to gay it down, and I was actually kind of amenable because I was sort of greedy, but they never ended up doing it."

The show also got national exposure when it was staged as part of an HBO comedy festival in Aspen. "It was the weirdest experience of my life," Fisher said. "It was like all of Los Angeles was in Aspen for the weekend, and we were the poor faggots from San Francisco, and they're all walking around in their ski gear. They didn't know what to make of us."

*Medea: The Musical* will run at Rhino through June 19. Call 861-5079 or go to [therhino.org](http://therhino.org).



Sarah Mitchell and Nathan Bayard play Medea and Jason at The Rhino.

### Sounds of summer

New Conservatory Theatre Center has a trio of personality-driven productions for its 2005 *In Concert* series, starting off this week with a "noir musical" created by and starring local lounge superstar Spencer Day.

In *Someday, Love*, Day will be performing with his ensemble The Crimson Club in the story of three lonely barflies looking at their last chances for love. Richard "Scumbly" Koldewyn is the director.

Bawdy 1950s nightclub personality (and lesbian)

Frances Faye is the subject of *Drunk with Love*, opening in July. Terese Geneco stars in this tribute based on Faye's live recordings.

Stage and screen actress Carole Cook arrives in August with *Dress Up!*, a solo show recounting her early life in Texas and subsequent career through stories and songs.

For more info, call 861-8972 or go to [nctcsf.org](http://nctcsf.org).

### Short scenes

• Want to watch the Tony Awards with other theater fans? New Conservatory is presenting its second annual *Ticket to the Tonys* on June 5. A benefit to support NCTC, the event includes a silent auction, live music, a wine bar, and munchies — and, of course, the Tony broadcast. Call 861-4914.

• Add Marga Gomez to the list of special summer attractions on local stages. The popular lesbian comedian will premiere "Los Big Names" at the Magic Theatre on July 13. The new solo show combines stories from her childhood with her eccentric showbiz parents as well as misadventures in her own career. Call 441-8822 or go to [magictheatre.org](http://magictheatre.org).

• Big names are also returning this summer to Teatro Zinzanni. Joan Baez is back for another run as La Contessa on June 9 - 24,

while Sally Kellerman does another stint as Madame Zinzanni from July 27-Sept. 4. Call 438-2668 or go to [zinzanni.org](http://zinzanni.org). ▼

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Audiences go bananas for Howard Crabtree's *Whoop-Dee-Doo!*

# Making whoopee

## 'Whoop-Dee-Doo!' at New Conservatory

by Richard Dodds

**H**oward Crabtree's *Whoop-Dee-Doo!* was a warm-up to his irresistible posthumously produced hit *When Pigs Fly*, and New York audiences were able to enjoy the progression of his and his collaborators' talents. New Conservatory Theatre Center has reversed the order of production, having presented a successful version of *When Pigs Fly* last year, and now offering *Whoop-Dee-Doo!* as the final show of its current season. For those who saw *When Pigs Fly*, *Whoop-Dee-Doo!* may feel like lesser of the same.

But even at its least inspired, *Whoop-Dee-Doo!* possesses an amiability that helps connect the occasional moments of comic genius. As with its successor show, *Whoop-Dee-Doo!* centers on a character named Howard trying to put on an extravagantly costumed show on a shoestring budget. Interruptions and calamities threat-

en the show-within-the-show until Howard saves the day by turning trash into costumes for the finale.

The songs and sketches are credited to 11 contributors, and the rangy material is united mostly by a sensibility that really deserves the overused designation of "camp." In one of the best scenes, a show queen's trunk falls from an airplane onto an isolated tropical island. Before long, the natives are interspersing their ugga-bugga's with snatches of Jerry Herman and Stephen Sondheim while sounding a lot like Carol Channing. But in the end, the creators can't sustain their inspiration.

Patrick Michael Dukeman makes a welcome return from *When Pigs Fly* as the gentle dreamer Howard, and Trauma Flintstone, who can somehow turn his mouth into a parallelogram, is also back with shtick both worn and welcome.

Tom Orr, best remembered for *Dirty Little Showtunes*, is back from a local theatrical hiatus as a

hard-working member of the ensemble who best gets to show off as a weakling-turned-buff go-go boy, John Cavellini, Dann Howard, and Justin Weatherby complete the cast in agreeable fashion.

Director Ed Decker and choreographer Stephanie Temple have staged the revue with a swift, light touch befitting the frothy material, and musical director Kelly Crandell has elicited a polished sound from the piano and the cast. Costumer Carola Anderson and her crew have obviously done yeomen's work, but the costumes don't have the impact as did the outlandish outfits built and borrowed for *When Pigs Fly*.

*Whoop-Dee-Doo!* may have come first, but it still feels like a case of sequelitis. ▼

**Whoop-Dee-Doo! will run through July 10 at New Conservatory Theatre Center. Tickets are \$26 - \$32. Call 861-8972 or go to nctcsf.org.**

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DVD

# Catfights a-plenty

## 'Dynasty' brings back the naughty '80s

by David Nahmod

*Dynasty: The Complete First Season (1981) - Fox DVD*

This over-the-top primetime soap is fondly remembered for its costumes and its catfights. Its success was a product of its time, the '80s. Out-of-control conspicuous consumption was the order of the day, on a level that made San Francisco's dot-com boom of the '90s seem tame in comparison.

Joan Collins' portrayal of uber-bitch Alexis Carrington Colby, the mother and wife from Hell, catapulted *Dynasty* into the stratosphere of pop-culture entertainment. Her grand entrances, scheming, and bitch-fights with the ever-suffering Krystle were unlike anything seen on screen since the glory days of Bette Davis and Joan Crawford. Far removed from the real world, *Dynasty* was a campy delight, a guilty pleasure. Naturally, gay audiences tuned in by the millions. *Dynasty* nights were all the rage at gay bars.

Alexis didn't appear until season two, and few people remember that in its initial season, *Dynasty* was a fairly straightforward drama about the super-rich. During its first season, it was such a low-rated show, it was in danger of cancellation. Now *Dynasty* has joined the parade of popular shows released on DVD season by season.

I admit to having caught *Dynasty* Fever in those bygone days. I still tune into SoapNet's reruns of the series to see Alexis and Krystle throw each other into the pool, pull each other's hair out by the roots, or fling mud on each other's elegant gowns. But until the first season discs arrived, I had never seen the earlier episodes. So how does this first season hold up for those of us who recall *Dynasty*-mania with such campy fondness?

It was a deadly serious show in its 16-episode freshman year, which included a three-hour pilot film. A totally different show from what followed, it's a surprisingly compelling and believable family drama.

### Oil money

The story opens as super-rich oil tycoon Blake Carrington (John



Forsythe) prepares to wed his beautiful secretary, Krystle (Linda Evans). You need a scorecard to keep track of the many plotlines and complicated relationships. Krystle is still in love with her ex-boyfriend Matthew (Bo Hopkins), who works for her new husband. Matthew is dealing with Claudia (Pamela Bellwood), his mentally ill wife.

Blake is a man of questionable business ethics. In a still topical subplot, he may have sold out his country's security in order to do business with some Arab oil sheiks. He may also have sabotaged the oil fields of a competitor.

Blake's children are a handful. His daughter Fallon (Pamela Sue Martin) is a spoiled bitch who's sleeping with the handsome chauffeur (Wayne Northrop). His son Steven (Al Corley) is gay.

The character of Steven Carrington received a lot of press when the series premiered in 1981. While gays were becoming a staple of sitcoms, usually as the butt of homophobic jokes, *Dynasty* was the first primetime series with the courage to present a handsome, likable gay man as a continuing character. Steven was no gay eunuch — he had lovers! While his lover Ted appears in two episodes, and while it's clear the two are going to spend the night together, we never see them touch. Today's viewers might see this as a step backward. But 24 years ago, Steven and Ted were a major step forward.

One very powerful scene from the pilot episode stands out. Macho, homophobic Blake confronts his son about his sexuality. This scene will hit home for many

gay viewers. Both actors are superbly in the moment for this difficult scene, and there's not a false note.

Steven embarks on an ill-advised affair with the still unstable (and still married) Claudia. This sad attempt to please Dad is obviously doomed to failure, and both Steven and Blake must deal with Steven's love for Ted. Can they? As this is a soap opera, I can only advise readers to tune in tomorrow.

*Dynasty* Season One stands out as a compelling drama in its own right. It makes one wonder how the stories might have progressed had the show remained serious. Al Corley played Steven for the first two seasons, later replaced by Jack Coleman. Corley is an attractive pretty-boy whose sad facial expressions gave the character a depth and sensitivity that the more hunky Coleman could not.

Some of the show's campiness is in evidence even this early on. When Blake takes Krystle to San Francisco's Chinatown for dinner on his private jet, we see a shot of the Bay Bridge and Coit Tower. We then see the happy duo walking down the street in what is all too obviously an indoor studio set. Locals familiar with Chinatown's bustling Grant Ave. will no doubt snicker.

Fox DVD presents *Dynasty: The Complete First Season* on four discs. All 16 episodes, plus the three-hour pilot, are presented uncut. Series creator/writer Esther Shapiro and Al Corley provide commentaries for select episodes. The documentary *Family, Furs and Fun: Creating Dynasty* features interviews with Shapiro, her husband and co-creator Richard, Corley and Pamela Sue Martin. ▼

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## So '70s

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### Manilow's the man

Inflated ego aside, in '75, when Barry Manilow sang, "I write the songs that make the whole world sing," he wasn't far off the mark. After all, Manilow is the man behind commercial jingles for McDonald's, Band Aid, State Farm, and others, and even if you never sang along with "Mandy" or "Copacabana," you probably know them. But back to Manilow's ego: how could he have dared to write lyrics for the *American Bandstand* theme ("Bandstand Boogie") or try to introduce pop music listeners to classical music (the Chopin-influenced "Could It Be Magic")? All of these songs can be found on *The Essential Barry Manilow* (Arista/Legacy), a thorough double-disc collection that makes 2002's *Ultimate* collection obsolete. Manilow's gay following was

a given considering he rose to prominence as Bette Midler's piano player/arranger when she performed at the Continental Baths early in her career.

### Gang of Four redux

With the popularity of new wave revival acts like Franz Ferdinand, now is a good time to look at one of the most influential of the original new wave bands, Gang of Four. Released in '79, their full-length major label debut, *Entertainment!* (Warner Bros./Rhino), effectively displayed the band's herky-jerky, near-mechanical post-punk sound. The expanded reissue, which features eight bonus tracks including a cover of The Velvet Underground's "Sweet Jane," contains Gang of Four trademark tunes "At Home He's a Tourist," "Damaged Goods," "I Found That Essence Rare," and "Anthrax," most of which have a persistent dance beat hard not to obey. ▼

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# Scott Heim explains it all for you

## 'Mysterious Skin' author tells his story

by David Lamble

**O**n a warm spring day a decade ago, Scott Heim waltzed in to my Market Street apartment eager to talk about his novel *Mysterious Skin*, with its lyrical descriptions of savage love on the edge of Kansas wheatfields. A Little League coach lures his eight-year-old charges into a suburban ranch house, chock-full of videogames, sugary breakfast food and tawdry snapshots.

Coming on the heels of the McMartin pre-school case, with its lurid charges of unspeakable crimes against children supported by the witchcraft psychology of "repressed memory," *Mysterious Skin* reveals its secrets slowly, beginning with one of the most heartbreakingly poignant paragraphs in queer fiction.

"The summer I was eight years old, five hours disappeared from my life... Whatever happened during that empty expanse of time remains a blur."

In two conversations (April '95; May '97), Heim cast himself as the bard of a fast-living group of boys whose knowledge that they're still in Kansas doesn't prevent them from pursuing mad obsessions. Heim's Kansas boys are lost in this rural place with its deceptively serene landscape. The interviews cast light on why it took



Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Jeffrey Licon and Michelle Trachtenberg bring Scott Heim's *Mysterious Skin* to life.

10 years for *Mysterious Skin* to make its sensational transition to the big screen, in a taut, economical but splendidly faithful adaptation by Gregg Araki.

David Lamble: When did the idea for *Mysterious Skin* come to you?

Scott Heim: The book began as a short story about a boy who was molested as a child and comes to believe a UFO abducted him. That just kept on growing, and gaining characters, and sooner or later the book became more about two protagonists.

I found that when writing about the progression of memory, from the point of view of teenagers, it worked well to bring in the other characters and have their points of view, to give a more well-rounded view.

You write in an informed way about sports, particularly baseball.

Right! People tend to ask, is this book autobiographical, and that's one thing that I'm not really ashamed to say. That's the one sport as a child that I was really good at. Also, for a long time I worked as a scorekeeper and announcer at the softball complex, which one of the characters does also.

The book does start with a sexual molestation from the Little League coach. Then, when they're older and they talk about details of the baseball field, and aspects of the game, I think it makes the reader keep thinking back to that

initial scene.

The subject of molestation is very hot right now, politically. When you thought about dealing with it in fiction, did you think about any of the political ramifications?

It wasn't until I was close to being finished with the book that I started thinking, if this book is published, is it going to anger people? I'm really interested in showing how the people involved are more than just stock characters, because when people think of things like child abuse and molestation, they tend to see the people involved in terms of the villain or the demon, the prey or the victim, and I wanted to show the predator as more human, and to show the prey as feeling more than just victimized.

Brian Lackey, the young man who ultimately turns out to have been molested, is not really a sexual being. Of all the male characters, he's the only one who clearly isn't gay, though we're not sure by the end of the book what he will become.

I very much wanted to play down his sexuality in the book, since he's counteracted with Neil, who's the most explosive sexual being you can imagine for his age.

Brian might be have had his life spoiled by the encounter with Coach, while Neil clearly has been stimulated by it, becoming a hustler. Some people might say his

life was ruined, but in many ways he was projected on a faster path to something he might already have been headed to. And he claims quite frankly to have loved the coach at one point.

Neil sort of sees the seduction coming a mile away, and he kind of runs with that. It's almost the first time in his life where someone has shown him love. Throughout his life, he's always comparing his relationships with this relationship he had with his Little League coach.

I think society tends to squash any kind of homosexual feelings that a boy would ever have. And I think it's fascinating to portray a child as sexually aware. I think people tend to underestimate childhood sexuality.

There's not all that much sex in your book, but what there is has a violent tinge to it, or is very physical, very hands-on. The coach really is not so much rough with Neil, but he really gets to the point. Neil develops a taste for rough sex with his Johns. But in each case, when you depict sex, you depict it very physically and in a full-bodied way. There's no doubt about what's happening.

Good. I'm very bored by reading vanilla sex in books, and I guess that's the reason why my book is like that. I wanted to show the more ferocious side of sex, to kind of mirror the psychological ferocity of what happens to the children at the beginning of the book. ▼

## Mysterious Skin

◀ Arts cover

almost as if he's here in the room with us." The recovery of lost memory, the justice for their loss of innocence, and the redemption for their futures has to come from Brian and Neil themselves.

Joseph Gordon-Levitt as the older Neil, and Brady Corbet (as in sorbet) as Brian, give heartbreakingly truthful performances. Gordon-Levitt, 22 at the time of filming, is a pistol of an adolescent who ages in a peculiar way before our eyes, much as David Bowie's lonely space alien did in *The Man Who Fell To Earth*. Corbet, who at filming was a 14-year-old actor playing an emotionally stunted

18-year-old boy, gives Brian a vulnerability that makes the whole world want to give him hug.

Gordon-Levitt hits a home run with a flat Midwestern accent embellished by the trick of swallowing his words. Like a young Paul Newman, Gordon-Levitt's Neil walks with a hard-dick swagger, boasting to his friends Wendy and Eric at one point that "I have fucked every single one in this park except white Camaro."

The darkness of the material is punctured by a delicious satire on the work ethic of rent boys, as one of Neil's more demanding clients reminds him: "Well, come on, stud, we're on the clock, here!"

As the aging salesman slobbers over him, Neil lets his mind drift back to the apogee of his child-

hood joy—the moment Coach showered them both with the sticky sweet cereal that was their foreplay. Araki frames the shot with Neil's face upside-down to the camera, the salesman's eager hands caressing his face until the boy guides those stubby fat fingers into his mouth. Araki subverts, to great dramatic and thematic purpose, the classic porn device of the camera observing the effect of the act rather than the act itself.

After sex, Neil counts his money (a ten and two twenties) and the salesman invokes the American ritual of disinfecting the scene of the crime, with mouthwash and the great balm of denial: "I know what you're thinking—that wasn't safe, but we're in

next page ►



## FILM

## Mysterious Skin

◀ previous page

Kansas, thank god, not some big city full of diseases, plus you're only a kid."

Later Neil will confess his sin, his night of guilty pleasure, to his friend Wendy. Her warnings that he's getting in over his head are dismissed with a sly grin and an "Okay, mom."

Araki gets compelling performances from Chase Ellison and George Webster as the 8-year-old Neil and Brian. Ellison even has an embryonic trace of the older Neil's cool, beyond-years swagger, while young Webster's glassy eyed, Bambi-violated innocence prepares us for Corbet's painful recovery of those traumatic missing five hours.

Araki points out the vital supporting work of Elisabeth Shue as Neil's lonely mom with her many boyfriends. Gordon-Levitt and Shue are splendid, in a short amount of screen time, in establishing the very physical affection that Neil and his mom share, not alluding so much to incest as to the very real dilemma of sons stepping up to be second husbands to abandoned but still vital moms.

## Back in the public eye

Gregg Araki is amused when I remind him how long he's been out of the queer film spotlight. Casually attired and looking a good decade younger than his actual early 40's, the director says he is neither recovering from a 12-step program nor returning from the purgatory of some weird ex-gay status—but is simply a very private person who only steps out when he has a film to plug.

*Mysterious Skin's* themes of battered boys who fit no mainstream gay niche reflects Araki's early '90s passionate low-budget body of youth-at-risk cinema (*The Living End*, *The Doomed Generation*). Araki says he's had his eye on Scott Heim's explosive first novel since its 1995 publication, and that his movie owes its success in large measure to the haunting, dark but compelling truth of Heim's vision of small town boys in peril: "The adaptation is extremely faithful; I would literally have the book with me and just lift whole passages, all the characters, all the scenes, the



Elisabeth Shue (right) with Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Jeffery Licon.

structure, everything."

Araki says the film's portrayal of a world of fatherless boys comes directly from Heim's own childhood: "Scott's parents divorced when he was very young. I think that Scott lived in a kind of fatherless world, and that was a very important theme to him. The coach sort of feeds on that."

## Shielding the children

Araki notes the dilemma of employing child actors who are literally too young to see the finished film. His detailed reply is a convincing rebuttal to right wing Christian critics who have begun to suggest that the shooting of *Mysterious Skin* was some kind of exercise in child pornography: "It was very important to producer Mary Jane Skalski and I that we not traumatize two children while making a film about childhood trauma. Chase and George only read their scenes and we shot those scenes so that they didn't really know what was happening. Astute film students will be able to deconstruct the scenes and see how I shot in a way that the kids would not know what was going on."

While the kids were kept in the dark, says Araki, "obviously, their parents had read the whole script and we had many long conversations, and they were there to make sure their kids were okay. The kids actually had a really good time making the movie."

Central to one's experience of the film is the incredible performance of Joseph Gordon-Levitt as the obsessed small town hustler who finds, even in his part-time

job as PA announcer at the town's softball complex, a way to interject hard-core sexuality into his every waking moment. Araki is effusive in his praise for the lanky, not-an-ounce-of-body-fat former TV actor (NBC's *3rd Rock From the Sun*) who devoted himself to every nuance of Neil McCormick, down to traveling to Kansas to record the local dialect.

"Joe is such a great actor, he did so much research for the part. Our joke on the set was, 'Oh, it's Neil McCormick' — he literally became that character. Neil McCormick is a very tricky character in the sense that he's kind of a little bit of an asshole, so the character could have easily come off as this kind of arrogant dick, but instead there's a kind of vulnerability to Joe."

## Vibrant colors

Brady Corbet, who plays the older Brian, got some attention as the younger brother to Evan Rachel Wood's out-of-control girl striving for popularity in Catherine Hardwicke's *Thirteen*, and ironically just as he does in *Skin*. Corbet was called upon in *Thirteen* to tell off an absent dad. Araki says Corbet helped make the important yin-and-yang contrast between the immature introvert Brian and the sexy hustler Neil, whose contrasting journeys give the film its emotional wallop.

"Brady was only 14 when he made this film, playing 18," says Araki. "He's one of those sort of amazing genius prodigy kids; he's a huge fan of international cinema, he loves Claire Denis films."

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# The boy who started a war

## Harlan Greene on 'The German Officer's Boy'

by Jameson Currier

*The German Officer's Boy* by Harlan Greene; The University of Wisconsin Press/Terrace Books, \$26.95

**O**n November 7, 1938, Herschel Grynszpan, a young Jewish man living illegally in Paris, walked into the German embassy and shot Ernst vom Rath, a German diplomat. The assassination triggered Kristallnacht, the organized Nazi pogrom against the Jewish community inside the boundaries of Third Reich that was the symbolic beginning of the Holocaust. Many historians have speculated that the young Grynszpan had intended to shoot the ambassador, Count Johannes Welczek, but according to author Harlan Greene in his new novel, *The German Officer's Boy* (University of Wisconsin Press), the shooting was the accidental result of the 17-year-old Grynszpan's affair with the older, 29-year-old German officer.

Greene, whose prior works include two historical novels about gay life in Charleston (*Why We Never Danced the Charleston* and *What the Dead Remember*) and an admirable shelf of nonfiction

books on Southern history, said that for years he had noted the speculation of Grynszpan's homosexuality in the footnotes of books on Kristallnacht.

"Because my parents were Holocaust survivors, I was always reading about the Holocaust," Greene says. "I first noticed the reference in the mid-1980s in a book by Frank Rector called *The Nazi Extermination of Homosexuals*, and, to be frank, I didn't believe it. I thought someone was trying to write gay history into everything. Over time, it seemed something more credible to me."

Greene, now Project Archivist at Avery Institute in Charleston, decided to novelize the Grynszpan affair instead of pursuing a non-fiction route. In spare, concise prose, Greene details the young man's family life, his journey through the underbelly of Paris as a "rent boy," and the ill-fated romance between "a boy with dark, brooding eyes and olive skin" and the older, secretive, "tidy blond" German. Greene has the affair begin in the summer of 1938 and continue until November, when Herschel, whose papers were not in order, was about to be deported from France.

During the course of research-

ing and writing the novel, Greene discovered many works which openly affirmed Herschel's declaration that he was gay and that he and Ernst were in a relationship, but feels that many historians try to explain it away, as if labeling Herschel as gay insults him and makes him less of an "innocent" victim. "Those who believe Herschel assume that any such relationship between a Jew and a German had to be tawdry," Greene explains. "I began to write this story to restore Herschel to history as a gay man — and to give him the possibility of having had some happiness."

Grynszpan's fate has become one of the unsolved mysteries of World War II and the Holocaust. The last time anyone saw Herschel in the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp was September 1942. A number of postwar sources have contended that Grynszpan survived only to resume his Paris residence after the War and start a family. One of Grynszpan's original lawyers reported that he had been beheaded by the Germans after his transfer into their hands in 1940.

Greene, who began writing his novelization in the late '80s, kept close to the historical facts surrounding Grynszpan's imprisonment, but fictionalized his family background and his angst over being separated from his family. "Herschel himself is pretty much as I found him," Greene writes in the Afterword to his novel, "puzzling, annoying, contradictory, adolescent, and tragic."

All of Grynszpan's family sur-

vived the war except for an uncle who was murdered in Auschwitz, and Grynszpan's sister who died in Russia, where the family took refuge. The Grynszpan family later immigrated to Israel, where they played a part in the trial of Adolf Eichmann in Jerusalem. Herschel's father and brother testified that all their previous efforts to find him had failed. In the late '50s, the family petitioned the German government for a death date in order to give the family closure. Herschel Grynszpan was declared dead June 1, 1960.

### Southern exposure

Greene's parents, Sam and Regina Greene, survived the Holocaust in Russian work camps during World War II. They were married in June 1939, shortly before war broke out. After the war, his parents moved to Charleston, where his mother had an aunt and a first cousin. Greene, born in 1953, was raised in Charleston, where he now lives with his partner, Jonathan Ray. Among the projects Greene has worked on locally has been to help collect and archive the experiences of Jews in South Carolina of the past 200 years, forming the basis of the Jewish archive at the College of Charleston.

In 1989, Greene lived in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where his companion at the time, Olin Jolley, was starting his residency in psychiatry at the University of North Carolina. In October of that year, Jolley was diagnosed with AIDS.

"I started working on this novel right when Olin was diag-



Harlan Greene.

nosed with AIDS," Greene says. "Ironically, it was on Yom Kippur of 1989 that he basically went into the hospital and almost died. He subsequently lived seven years. I think that's one thing that launched me onto this novel — and I'm certainly not comparing my experiences with Olin being sick with Holocaust experiences — but what struck me in those first few months when Olin got sick and we weren't telling his parents was that I was leading something of a double-life, pretending everything was fine, but there was this devastating experience that I was going through. It struck me that this might be what someone felt who was passing at the time — a few pretending not to be Jewish pretending not to be going through a tragedy. Olin's experience made me read a lot more stuff into Holocaust works, and appreciate my parents' experience much more." ▼

**Jameson Currier is a freelance journalist and author. His most recent book is *Desire, Lust, Passion, Sex*.**

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ONE OF THE MOVIES NOW PLAYING

## Gay fiction

◀ Arts cover

crossover as selling more copies, but it's not always the case."

He cited the benefits of targeting the gay market. "We get perhaps more sales because we have this niche that we can fit right into. But as writers," he explained, "we don't ever want to think there's only one thing we can do. You want to reach out. I want to keep pushing myself as a writer to do new and different things."

"The idea of a gay novel is perhaps an anachronism. I'm not

sure we can continue to use that term."

Trebor Healey wrote *Through It Came Bright Colors*. His answer to "What is a gay novel?" was that

"the protagonist or main character is gay. It's a gay novel, like a black novel. Are Toni Morrison's novels black novels?" he asked. "Some people think so. It is helpful to have this market because I can present my work to a group of people who are willing to look at it. But I write exactly what I want to write."

Healey doesn't view a gay novel as that different. "Whether gay, or between older people or younger people, the universal truth of human connection of people is the same. I think there is sort of an evolution of what is a gay novel. As gay themes are more accepted and gay people are more accepted, I think more novels cross over."

His challenge is, "How can I write a story and have the gay material I want to talk about, but make it appeal to other people as well? I think it's just to write as well as possible."

Christopher Rice, son of novelist Anne Rice, has the most name recognition of the four. His works include *The Snow Garden* and *Light Before Day*. His answer about gay novels: "I think the requirement is that the gay character's homosexuality plays a pivotal

role in the progression of the narrative."

"I write crime fiction, or you could call it more of a gothic horror story," Rice said. "By the time I

sat down to write these books, I thought that I had read a great deal of truth about the gay male experience in this country, so I was intimidated out of writing exclusively that. So I wanted to write mystery and crime stories with gay characters. The issue of homosexuality was always sublimated by the mystery itself."

Dan Boyle is the author of the bestseller *Huddle*. "I went on a book tour last February," he said, "and every time we stopped in a place, they asked if our book was geared just to the gay market. Was it a gay novel?" Boyle said he waltzed around the question.

"I wrote about seven gay football players. I was hoping I was going to break boundaries on the concept of masculinity, I guess. After about the third or fourth tour, I said, 'This is a cover of my novel. It's a gay novel.'"

Boyle is working on another book, but is it a gay novel? "It's really two main characters. One is a Cal Tech physicist who is trying to understand the meaning of life, and his mother is dying of dementia. I just happened to make the physicist gay."



Trebor Healey



Dan Boyle



William Mann

next page ►



DVD

# Trainyard romantics

'The Graffiti Artist' is out on DVD

by David Lamble

This almost dialogue-free probe into the world of a biracial, horny, teen spray-paint-artist is the second feature film from James Bolton, whose brave *Eban and Charly*, about the love of a 29-year-old soccer coach for a 15-year-old aspiring poet/musician, won hearts all across the queer-film circuit. Bolton sets *The Graffiti Artist* in Gus Van Sant country, the kid-populated urban jungles around the trainyards of Portland and Seattle. Nick (Dutch-born actor Ruben Bansi-Snellmean, from the cast of Van Sant's *Elephant*) gives off the sexy panache and non-swaggering nonchalance of a young Derek Jeter. He's fiercely independent in his spray art, his living arrangements and his erotic attachments. When the curly-haired Jesse (the pouty-lipped Pepper Fajans) catches his fancy, all is well in tagger heaven until boredom, class attitude and urban bullshit spoil this boy's story.

Bolton, whose body of work began with a documentary on novelist Dennis Cooper and a short film about teenage hustlers surviving on the streets of LA (completed in his teens), has an instinctive feel for the social prison of adolescence. Some prisoners like Nick are serving self-imposed sentences. He operates in a cash-free zone, shoplifting all his basic needs, from Washington State apples to indelible markers and aerosol paint with which he sprays his rebel tag, Rupture.

When we first spy him, Nick behaves like a space alien, beaming in and out of the industrial scar of Portland on his board, eschewing all human contact, until he spies Jessie talking with some other kids. The two don't become a duo until Nick is busted by Portland trainyard dicks. Deprived of his board, he hops a train for Seattle. In a film that revels in its plotless abandon, the relationship of Nick and Jesse is as close as we get to a love story, or any kind of story.



At first, Jesse is an angel, using his absent mom's money to buy Nick a classy new board and veggie brunch. One of the first things that divides them is Nick's insistence that all stuff should be free for the taking. Bolton uses the shoplifting theme not so much as an anti-authority wet dream, but to demonstrate the challenge that a really wild kid like Nick represents to a middle-class guy like Jesse, whose rebellious instincts are pre-paid in plastic.

But what will separate the boy from the boy is the big S. Sex, on their second night together, comes at Jesse's bidding. He tops Nick in a scene that is as tender and sweet as any in *Eban and Charly*. We see what we need to see, but the real pleasure of the moment comes, as much of this film's pleasures do, from the soundtrack. Nick's breathing gradually increases in tempo as the two, for a brief, blissful moment, become one. This sex is between guys who don't have labels for what they do. It's a moment that rivals the great campfire scene in *My Own Private Idaho*. This time, the agendas and egos of movie stars don't deprive us of the clinch. It's also a deal-breaker, with Jesse freaking out over the intimacy, and Nick left to his lonely pursuit of truth.

## Tag along

This brings us back to the movie's title, *The Graffiti Artist*. It's to the credit of Bolton and the ac-

tors that the title is not oxy-moronic. The film is a gritty 101 in overcoming one's aversion to tagger art. Nick's graffiti is defiant, anarchic, but not vandal-like or illiterate. Gradually, as he opens his heart and his treasured scrapbook containing the instant-camera records of his pieces, we understand why they are indeed art, and why this very public art is really just for him, not a ticket to art-world whoredom. The conflict is the same that grips the protagonist in Rodney Evans' *Brother to Brother*, burned down to its essence, the way Nick's spray clings to the raw metal of the trainyards.

Expressively shot in tight close-ups by Sarah Levy and harmoniously scored by Hip Hop DJ Kid Loco — whose lovely Middle Eastern riffs cascade through a basic ambient-flavored composition — with a sound design by John Northcraft, *The Graffiti Artist* has a touch of the hypnotic quality possessed by another album-like film, Richard Linklater's astonishing *Waking Life*. Seeking to create a lovely little jewel of a DVD, Bolton and company provide explanatory extras that break the mold of the usual voiceover commentary. It's refreshing to see the director telling his story on screen, to see just how young he is. There's also a smart gallery of location photography and a revealing interview with co-star Ruben Bansi-Snellmean. ▼

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## Gay fiction

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He said it gave him some concern. "Is this going to hurt me as far as crossing over the market? But I know a lot more about being gay than about straight men," he continued, "and I want to make the physicist gay. As I write it, more gay people get into the novel."

His final word on the subject: "It's not really a gay novel; just two protagonists, and one is gay. I really don't want to pitch it as a gay novel."

## Sex talk

The authors also addressed the subject of explicit sex in their novels. The answers varied, as one might expect.

Mann explained, "I like to push a lot of buttons, and that's why there's so much sex in *The Men from the Boys*. The sequel to that book, *Where the Boys Are*, you'd think there would be more sex. There isn't."

He said he gets "tons of e-mails from readers saying, 'Where'd all the sex go? I think they do like it,

because it is an affirmation." He cited *Will & Grace*, "where there's no gay sex."

Mann thinks "there's a hunger for it. People do want to read about sex. When it's right, it's right. I'm not going to just write a gratuitous sex scene."

Rice said he doesn't write many sex scenes. "I don't like writing sex scenes; they don't interest me. I'm more interested in what the lead-up to the sex is about for the characters," he said. "I'm often writing about sex as manipulation, so the act itself is not where my focus is."

Boyle laughed as he stated: "According to our publisher, we have to have a man's naked torso on the cover of the book. They've done market studies and shown that the book sells better."

In *Huddle*, he said, "I do have a couple of sex scenes. I don't think I'm going to have a sex scene in my next novel. But they'll still have a half-naked torso."

He said, "What makes us gay is our sexuality, but there's a lot more to it. I really don't think it's necessary to be in a gay novel." ▼



Christopher Rice

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# Do the hustle

by Jim Piechota

*The Sluts* by Dennis Cooper; Void Books; \$50

The Internet reviews are in, and Brad, a strung-out, skinny, jittery Long Beach hustler advertising himself on an escort website, has all of his filthy fetishes exposed by a string of johns who either consider him to have a "delicious, baby-soft ass with a talented hole" for barebacking, or they simply beat Brad to a pulp — just for fun.

This is familiar territory for Cooper, whose wayward, dirty-faced juvenile delinquents have been traipsing through his fiction since 1989's *Closer*, which proved just the first entry in his George Myles Cycle. Readers familiar with the works of the edgy novelist will hardly be shocked by the premise for this latest kink-soaked odyssey, and may only find themselves mildly titillated.

Derived entirely from disturb-



ing web-review sites, e-mails, faxes, twisted online personals ("Dr. Jack Kevorkian type seeks cute, thin 18-24-year-old terminal patient type") and chatrooms, the sad story of a downtrodden hustler who may or may not have been snuffed is the central theme. The introductory chapters' slick, unsafe sex eventually blossoms

into more treacherous territory as the johns begin to reveal their separate obsessions with the intricate torture and near-death persecution of Brad and a few other rent boys.

The material is graphic and unsettling, and absolutely not for the faint of heart: one of Brad's customers performs an S/M genital hazing ritual involving lighter fluid and a match, stun guns, and a metal bat; another writes that his "greatest fantasy is to have sex with a boy and murder him."

If this book were written as a prose-driven novel, its graphic language and grisly details would be more memorable, but given that the book is told from the perspective of web-savvy hustlers and johns furiously punching out fantasies on their keyboards, its raw shock impact has the equivalent of a dull knife. The expanse of our perverted imaginations isn't able to fly freely. E-mails and Web-postings, a repetitive and lethargic form on the page, will soon have readers craving for living, breathing, fleshed-out characters — except in the book's horrific ending, where the gore goes into Technicolor overdrive, with a john who describes his castration fetish.

Because Brooklyn-based Void Books issued a limited-print run of 550 copies, the extreme list-price might deter book-buyers, but this fall, Carroll & Graf Publishers will re-release this naughty gem in paperback (at \$15.95), when Cooper and his hustlers will, er, spread themselves open for a considerably wider release. [www.void-books.com](http://www.void-books.com) ▼

# Pants on fire

by Robert Julian

*Charlotte* by Kathryn Shevelow; Henry Holt and Co.; \$27.50



Once upon a time, in Merry Olde England, there lived a woman named Charlotte Cibber Charke. She was an actress and writer, born into a London theatrical family with impeccable political connections to the house of Hanover. She started her professional life as a member of her father's Drury Lane theatrical company. But Charlotte's promising career in the theater was adversely impacted by her irresistible desire to appear, on stage and off, in men's clothing.

Kathryn Shevelow's biography *Charlotte* illuminates the life of this 18th-century actress in great detail, or at least in as much detail as can reasonably be expected of any author exhuming events and personalities that are now 300 years old. The first half of Shevelow's book is prologue, establishing the context of London's theatrical community in the early 1700s. It is only in the second half of the narrative that Charlotte's ultimately tragic adult life unfolds. Shevelow provides meticulous research, 20 pages of footnotes, and a seven-page bibliography. Shevelow is a professor who teaches theater history at the University of California in San Diego. And there, dear reader, lies the rub.

Even for those of us with undergraduate degrees in theater, *Charlotte* is an almost impossible book to digest. Shevelow is not a bad writer, but an author in her position has an understandable need to protect her academic credentials. The result is a book valuable for those who want to research the English theatrical tradition or theater history, but essentially useless to everyone else. Henry Holt and Company should be congratulated for giving this work a quality printing and good publicity, especially in light of the fact that there is zero audience for this work. By contemporary standards, the idea of a cross-dressing, possibly lesbian actress is hardly shocking. And the life of an antiquarian one remains, at best, a footnote to history. ▼

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# Sopranos for the ages

Two great singing actresses on disc

by Jason Victor Serinus

Having heard mezzo-soprano Anne Sophie von Otter live three times in the past year, most recently in April at the Met in Mozart's final opera seria *La Clemenza di Tito*, my admiration for her versatility and artistry have continued to grow. Some have disparaged von Otter's gorgeous CD collaboration with Elvis Costello, suggesting that pop singing (including her forthcoming recording of ABBA, and her coy Christmas encore of "Santa Baby") provides an easy way out for a vocalist past her prime. But save for a tight high B-flat in her performance of Mozart's "Parto, parto," I have heard nothing to suggest that the just-turned 50-year-old singer is in decline.

Von Otter's latest solo recording *Music for a While: Baroque Melodies* (DG) finds her in splen-



did vocal and histrionic estate. Various accompanied by Jory Vinikour's authentic harpsichord & chamber organ, Jakob Lindberg's theorbo, lute & Baroque guitar, and Anders Ericson's theorbo, the program reminds us that her legacy of baroque recordings that began with Monteverdi and Bach in '87 has also generated two awards for her Handel.

Some singers approach Baroque music with politeness. Not von Otter. Guided by scholarly research into period practice, she launches into Benedetto Ferrari's jovial "Amanti, io vi so dire" ("Lovers, I can tell you that it is much better to flee from a pretty woman") with jocular passion, whooping it up like a female in hot pursuit. That she manages to maintain a coherent musical line while underscoring Ferrari's multiple shenanigans is much to her credit.

Von Otter quiets down as appropriate for many of the 10 songs by Purcell and Dowland that comprise the bulk of the program. With her accompanists eschewing

conventional string bass continuo to provide what the liner notes call "greater intimacy," Purcell's "Sweeter than Roses" and Dowland's pristinely accompanied "In darkness let me dwell" are lovely. But when she turns Barbara Strozzi's "Udite, amanti" ("Hear, lovers, the cause, oh god, that brings me to tears") into over-the-top melodrama, von Otter's imprimatur as a singing actress comes to the fore. With the inclusion of some wonderful instrumental solos, this is a great disc for baroque lovers.

**Rare Callas**

After listening to von Otter's maids and sirs sighing and crying their baroque hearts out, it may not seem like such a far stretch to turn to the illuminating DVD *Maria Callas: Living and Dying for Art and Love* (TDK). The compelling 60-minute BBC production, directed by Steve Cole, intersperses excerpts from rare footage of *La Divina* and Tito Gobbi's '64 Covent Garden Act II of Puccini's *Tosca* (plus vocals and stills from other performances of the period) with commentary from such renowned singers as Grace Bumbry, Plácido Domingo, and Gobbi himself. Additional insights from conductor Antonio Pappano and director Franco Zeffirelli, make the DVD indispensable.

Critical reaction to Zeffirelli's recent feature-length movie *Callas Forever* provided ample evidence

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DVD

# Bertolucci finds his voice

Criterion releases 'La commare secca'

by Matthew Kennedy

Italian director Bernardo Bertolucci has made a career of alienation. Consider the overheated shut-ins of *Last Tango in Paris* (1973) and *The Dreamers* (2004). Sex, mind games, and cinema became obsessions against the participation in everyday life. *The Last Emperor* ('87) and *Little Buddha* ('93) are epic odes to ascribed political and spiritual otherness. His preoccupation with insider/outsider dynamics reached a moment of terrifying clarity in *The Conformist* ('71), as Dominique Sanda seeks refuge from certain death in a car whose occupants refuse her admittance.

With the Criterion DVD release of Bertolucci's 1962 debut film *La commare secca* (*The Grim Reaper*), the theme of alienation is demonstrated to be with him from the start. Nothing and no one connects in this film. A low-angle shot of a bridge is the opening image. We hear the rumbling of a vehicle passing. Loose newspapers are set adrift by the displaced air. They float downward, then are carried by the wind through the tall grass on the banks of the Tiber. The camera pans to the right, settling on the corpse of a murdered woman. It's an arresting few moments, appearing like a trumpet flourish to announce the arrival of a great director.

To further a sense of disassociation, each suspect in the crime has an episode in the film. There's a petty thief, a pimp, and soldier, a waiter, and a pair of callow boys out to score with their girlfriends. As they are rounded up and *La commare secca* moves through its 93 minutes, it begins to suggest a number of genres, directors, and titles. Its eclecticism confirms that



it could only be directed by a young man in search of his voice. It first begins to resemble *Rashomon*, Akira Kurosawa's great 1950 study of relativity in truth, though Bertolucci vows he did not see it prior. Both feature off-camera interrogators and use rain for symbolic value, but unlike *Rashomon*, the crime of *La commare secca* is solved.

## Italian blend

The film remains a curious, intriguing blend of Italian Neorealism and Nouvelle Vague, from the bleached and derelict city streets to the discordant, jump-cutting visuals. The blighted landscapes have the cold sterility and discomfort of Antonioni's *L'Avventura*, an allegorical film made just two years prior. Bertolucci says his fluid camera, which at times is spectacularly effective, was a conscious break from the frontal setups of his mentor Pier Paolo Pasolini, who wrote the story that inspired *La commare secca*. It was on Accattone (1961) that Bertolucci first worked as assistant director and saw Pasolini's Marxist examination of cruelty in Roman slums at the hands of the Italian bourgeois. Primarily *La*

*commare secca* feels like Bertolucci was making creative hay, finding his style, and exploring his camera's potential. Amazing but true, he was just 21 in 1962. His only prior experience, apart from his Pasolini internship, was with two short home movies made when he was 16. When it came time to be in charge of *La commare secca*, he was bossing grips, cameramen, costumers, actors, and production managers who were all older and more experienced.

He humbled all skeptics. *La commare secca* has flashes of brilliance and remains the worthy first effort of a director who went on to adoration and Oscars. As he did in future movies, he made uncanny musical choices, using an ongoing aural overlay of guitars and flutes. He sometimes ends the music with the abruptness of a film cut. Such disconnection reflects on his dark view of human relations here and elsewhere, as he deprives his film of virtually any communion. The film's attractive specimens reveal hearts of coal, and grotesque closeups are not uncommon. The murder victim was a prostitute, and she is always referred to as such, never "person" or "woman." Even a slow dance looks like a zombie hop, flesh barely touching flesh, eyes unfocused, while the business of moving to music has the dull routine of doing laundry.

In a 2004 interview, featured as an extra on this DVD, Bertolucci said his 21-year-old self wanted to see if "it was possible to write poetry with a movie camera." With *La commare secca*, he nearly succeeded.

DVD extras include an exclusive new interview with director Bernardo Bertolucci and a new essay by film critic David Thompson. [criterionco.com](http://criterionco.com) ▼

## Sopranos

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that one of the major artistic tragedies of the AIDS epidemic has been the loss of a generation of gay men who could have passed on the appreciation for opera that has up to now been a hallmark of our community. How many men who first learned about opera from older lovers have been denied that opportunity by the death of a generation?

As many times as I've seen footage of Callas and Gobbi in Covent Garden's fully staged *Tosca* Act II, I have never appreciated it more than in this context. To witness Zeffirelli hoarsely describe how he coached Callas, then immediately see her amplifying his direction, illuminates her genius better than other Callas biographies and documentaries com-



bined. Not only do we learn from Zeffirelli and Gobbi what was staged and what was spontaneous, but Bumbry, Domingo, and Pappano (plus other artistic luminaries including Dame Judi Dench)

offer an additional level of appreciation that deepens our ability to assess Callas' achievement.

Only 18 months before the 41-year-old soprano abandoned the operatic stage entirely due to vocal decline, she rallied for her Covent Garden *Tosca* performances. Yes, she emitted a wobble or two, but they are negligible in the context of her profound singing and acting.

Callas could still produce a vulnerable, sweet tone when called for, all the more miraculous when contrasted with the well of personal suffering that lay at the core of her *Tosca* voice. Moving with extraordinary freedom, with gestures worthy of a ballerina's and facial expressions second to none, Callas illuminates Floria Tosca's tragedy like no other. Thanks to biographical commentary that sets the stage for her incomparable performance, this DVD is a must. ▼

## Mysterious Skin

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Brady in real life is nothing like Brian at all. He would come on the set as Brian and when he reverted back to Brady, there was just a whole change in his demeanor."

Araki says that since the older Neil and Brian characters don't share any scenes until the end of the film, *Mysterious Skin* was shot like two parallel films that only come together in a wrenching

crescendo at the end: "Joe and Brady's chemistry is what makes that scene work, the chemistry of two strangers who share this past. The fact that they were really not buddy-buddy all along comes through, and makes the ending of the film work."

Araki has sought to soften the onus of the material with a bright pallet of colors; it's as if the whole film comes exploding out of the Coach's small cereal boxes: Cocoa Krispies, Froot Loops, Corn Pops all washed down by peach Nehi

soda. Later in the film during Neil's horrific mauling at the hands of the trick from hell, those vibrant colors will return, the petroleum yellow of baby shampoo mixing with the cherry red of his blood.

Araki confesses his deep debt to the visually rich style of *Skin's* author: "In the book, there are these bursts of imagery, the baby shampoo bottle and Neil's face and this guy kind of towering over him. Scott writes in a very cinematic language; that scene in the book was vivid to me." ▼

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# OUT & ABOUT

## Calendare by Mark Mardon



Dancing a true story of blind love and brutal murder.

## Blinde Liebe

San Francisco is home to some of the most brilliant innovators in electronic music, not just in the form of nightclub beats, but in the realm of high art. Now one of our great local composers, Erling Wold, who has made a name for himself with the chamber operas *A Little Girl Dreams of Taking a Veil*, *Queer*, and *Sub Pontio Pilato*, is back with an ambitious music/dance production that takes creative electronics to a whole new level.

Starting tonight, Thursday, May 26, at Dance Mission (24th & Mission streets), Erling Wold's Fabrications together with the German-American group Palindrom Intermedia Performance Group present the US premiere of *Blinde Liebe — A True Story of Blind Love and Brutal Murder* — A Multimedia Dance Opera in One Act. *Blinde Liebe* involves two dancers, two actors, two singers, seven instruments, interactive technology, and computer projections. And it's put together by a stellar group of artist/scientists types, with music by Erling Wold, libretto by Robert Wechsler, Diana Wildschut, Erling Wold, and Jim Cave, choreography by Robert Wechsler and Helena Zwiauer, and interactive systems by Frieder Weiss. The show is directed by Jim Cave. Performing the roles are Johannes Reichert, countertenor, and Mariko Wakito, soprano, and dancers Helena Zwiauer, Robert Wechsler, Aimar Pérez Gali, and Diana Wildschut.

The story they're showcasing is bizarre and chilling. On August 26, 1997, Jenny, then 18, and her friend Samuel were busily murdering Robert K. They referred to this murder as their child, as the first scene in a movie, a romantic drama where they played the roles of Bonnie and Clyde. The murder, motivated by robbery, was to finance a trip to Spain where they would live off the land and leave behind their difficult past. However, within weeks of their arrival in Spain, they turned themselves in to the police, bringing the script to an abrupt end.

The show's interactive system, using bio-sensors & motion tracking technology, brings the audience closer to the experience. This has become Palindrom's specialty. Originally a New York City dance company in the 1980s, Palindrom relocated to Nürnberg, Germany, where the group has focused on artworks — performances and installations — that use human movement to control sound, lighting and projected images.

Robert Wechsler, artistic director of Palindrom, is a choreographer, dancer and developer of interactive methods of performing with technology, the latter of which has come about through a long-running (since 1995) collaboration with the computer engineer Frieder Weiß.

Palindrom's Helena Zwiauer, dancer/choreographer, comes from a background in gymnastics and music (voice and flute). She studied under Merce Cunningham in New York City and has danced in the companies of Jean-Christophe Maillot, Frey Faust, Susan Quinn and Kathy Sharp. With Palindrom she has choreographed over 15 works, including the award-winning "seine hohle Form", and has danced with the ensemble in tours throughout Europe, England, and South America.

Erling Wold's work has been performed and produced throughout the US and Europe. ▼

Tickets are \$17. Shows on Thu. May 26 @ 7:30pm; Sat. May 28 @ 3:30pm; & Sun. May 29 @ 9:30pm. Dance Mission, 3316 24th St. Info: [www.palindrome.de](http://www.palindrome.de); [www.erlingwold.com](http://www.erlingwold.com). Tix: 415-978-2787; [www.SFIntlArtsFest.org](http://www.SFIntlArtsFest.org)



Get your Memorial Day groove on with Tom Stephan SUPERCHUMBO and Miss Honey Dijon at Mezzanine. See Sunday.

## Fri 27

### Spencer Day & Crimson Club: Someday, Love @ NCTC

In Concert Series: *Someday, Love* starring Spencer Day and The Crimson Club in concert. Original music by Spencer Day; directed by Richard "Scrumbley" Koldewyn. Someday, Love is the intriguing new Noir musical about three lonely barflies imprisoned by their own lives. Reflecting upon their loss of innocence, they each reach a crossroads where they must decide whether or not to give love one more chance. \$15-\$28. 8pm. Show runs May 27-July 3. Series passes available (\$36 previews; \$60 Flex Pass; \$70 Opening Night passes; \$50 Pride Season passes). Theatre Three, NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. near Market. Tix/info: 415-861-8972; [www.nctcsf.org](http://www.nctcsf.org)

### Whoop-Dee-Do! @ NCTC

The New Conservatory Theatre Center's Pride Season Ten presents the musical extravaganza, *Whoop-Dee-Do!*, directed by Ed Decker with musical direction by Michael O'Dell and choreography by Tom Segal. Conceived/created by Charles Catane, Howard Crabtree, Dick Gallagher, Peter Morris and Mark Waldrop. In this prequel to When Pigs Fly, host and costume designer Howard Crabtree triumphs over a tiny budget, balky actors, and a near electrocution to produce a dizzy collage of songs and sketches. \$20 Wed.; \$26 Thu. & Sun.; \$28 Fri.; \$32 Sat. Showtimes 8pm Wed.-Sat.; 2pm Sun. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. near Market. Tix/info: 415-861-8972; [www.nctcsf.org](http://www.nctcsf.org)

### The Grand Inquisitor @ The Thick House

Central Works presents Dostoevsky's *The Grand Inquisitor* from *The Brothers Karamazov*. It's the height of the Spanish Inquisition. And He has come again... or has He? Central Works takes the magnificent story-within-the-story of the Brothers Karamazov, adapting it for the stage. Directed by Jan Zvaviler; featuring Gary Graves and David Skillman. \$9-\$25 sliding; pay-what-you-can performance on June 2. Runs May 27-June 19 at Thick House, 1695 18th St. (also runs July 8-31 at Berkeley City Club). Tix: 415-401-8081; [thickdescription.org](http://thickdescription.org)

### Queer Open Mic @ Three Dollar Bill Café

A transfabulous Queer Open Mic, hosted by Cindy M. Emch, featuring ryka aoki de la cruz, members of TransGyving, and yonno e2 atelange on the only SF stop of her womanifesting dangerous freedoms poetry tour. Open mic readers get 5 minutes, one poem or 3 pages of prose. \$1-\$5 donation. Open Mic sign up begins at 7:30, readings start at 8pm. Three Dollar Bill Café, SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market @ Octavia. Info: [www.sfcenter.org](http://www.sfcenter.org)

### Voices of Rhythm @ Jon Sims Center

JSC AIRspace (Artist-In-Residence) presents the final performance of Voices of Rhythm in "Separation of Differences" featuring Jennie Marshall & Anguloh Boes. Tap and modern dance are fused together with theater and multimedia in confronting

the connotations of sexual identity and its predicaments. \$10-\$15 sliding (NO-TAFLOF). Fri., May 27 and Sat., May 28 at 8pm. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission St. (at 11th). Info/Res: 415-554-0402; [www.jonsimsctr.org](http://www.jonsimsctr.org)

### Garrin Benfield & Cas Lucas @ Epic Arts, Berkeley

Together on stage for the first time, Garrin Benfield and Cas Lucas, two of the Bay Area's top acoustic musicians. Both amazing acoustic guitarists and crafty songwriters. 8:30pm. 1923 Ashby Ave. Berkeley. Info: [www.garrin.com](http://www.garrin.com)

### Seth Montfort's Fridays @ Victorian Englander House

Superman The Human Juke-Box: Seth Montfort performs audience requests from over 100 memorized works from Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin (more works by Chopin than required for The International Chopin Competition), etc. to Joplin, Gershwin & Cabaret Jazz by classical composers worldwide. \$5-\$10. Fri., May 27 at 6pm. 807 Franklin St. (between Turk & Eddy).

### Shadowplay @ The Stud

Shadowplay, the omnisexual indie, new wave, electro, and discopunk club, puts on the glitter and platforms to present "Twentieth Century Boy" on Fri., May 27. Seventy glam classics mixed with danceable indie and new wave. Free entrance by joining the Shadowplay email list; otherwise \$5 after 10pm. DJ Domino & guest DJ Skip (New Wave City, Decade). Go go dancers Catyanna and Johnny Sexbang. The Stud, 399 9th St. at Harrison. 9pm-3am. Info: [shadowplaysf.com](http://shadowplaysf.com)

### Foot Party SF

All-male parties for guys into or curious about feet, socks, footwear, tickling, trampling and more. Watch the latest foot fetish videos and meet sexy foot models! Get to know other hot guys into your scene. Parties happen the 4th Friday of every month. Newcomers welcome. Info: 877-299-2338; [www.footpartysf.com](http://www.footpartysf.com)

### Rock Out w/o yr Cock Out @ Edinburgh Castle

Femina Potens presents "Rock Out w/o yr Cock Out", with Project Renovate, If Rebecca Horn Played Guitar and Violetta Beauregarde. Come support women and transgendered musicians, eat some fish and chips, have a beer, and see kick-ass performances. \$5. 9pm. Edinburgh Castle (950 Geary). Info: [www.myspace.com/projectrenovate](http://www.myspace.com/projectrenovate); [www.tinabutcher.com](http://www.tinabutcher.com)

## Sat 28

### Medea: The Musical @ Theatre Rhinoceros

Opening night: Theatre Rhinoceros closes its 27th season with the first Bay Area production in five years of the runaway hit *Medea*: The Musical, a rollicking backstage musical of love, lust, adventure and ambition, written/directed by John Fisher (The Joy of Gay Sex, Combat!, Titus!, Amnesia). Cast features Floriana Alessandria, Nathan Bayard (Equity), David Bicha, Gary Cannon, Paul J. Hammonds, Barry Kendall, Casl Maggio, Sarah Mitchell, Ildiko Polony,

Natalie Saibel, Enrique Vallejo, Maryssa Wanlass and Matt Weiner. \$15-\$28. Previews: Thu. & Fri., May 26 & 27. Opening night Sat., May 28. Runs thru June 19. 8pm Wed.-Sat.; 3pm & 7pm Sun. (no 3pm on 5/29). The Rhino, 2526 16th St. (btwn Mission & Van Ness). Tix: 415-552-4100 ext 104; [www.therhino.org](http://www.therhino.org)

### Pam Tent/Cockettes @ Long Haul, Berkeley

Pam Tent will be reading from her great book "Midnight at the Palace: My life as a fabulous Cockette." Plus Carl Linkhart doing music, Michael Layne Heath reading poetry, Jay Alan Davis doing music and Rumi showing his 1972 cult film "Elevator Girls in Bondage." Free. Sat., May 28, 7:30pm at the Long Haul in Berkeley, 3124 Shattuck (btwn Prince & Woolsey near Ashby BART). Info: 510-540-0751.

### Swing Dance Party @ Synergy School

Last Saturday Swing Dance Party. 7pm beginning swing. 8pm intermediate swing. \$10 donation for the night; under-21 FREE! Half off for Queer Dance Pass holders! Fancy attire suggested; comfortable leather soled shoes recommended. No Partner and Experience needed. These are Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans, All-Ages dances open to everyone! Sat., May 28 at Synergy School, 1387 Valencia at 25th St. Info: [www.QueerBallroom.com](http://www.QueerBallroom.com)

### Memorial Day Weekend @ Industry

Mezzanine & Industry bring you Memorial Day Weekend, two parties with great DJs. Weekend passes available. Tonight: Industry DJs Suzanne Palmer, Jamie J. Sanchez, and Luke Johnstone, Prototypelover, Jonathan Wiggins, & Mike Brady. \$20 gen'l (Boy Badges half price; \$25 weekend passes). 10pm-6am. Mezzanine, 444 Jessie St. Info: [www.MezzanineSF.com](http://www.MezzanineSF.com)

### 'Mini-Bootie' @ 'Pop Rocks,' DNA Lounge

DJs Adrian & the Mysterious D and Party Ben will be spinning mash-ups all night at a "mini-Bootie" party in the upstairs lounge at "Pop Rocks" at the DNA Lounge on Sat., May 28, and there will be a midnight show from Princess Kennedy. Cover is only \$5! 21+ w/ID. 375 11th St. Info: [www.dnalounge.com](http://www.dnalounge.com)

### Carnaval Show @ Esta Noche

Celebrate Carnaval at SF's legendary Latin drag nightclub. 7pm Sat., May 28 & Sun., May 29. Esta Noche, 3079 16th St. Info: 415-861-5757

## Sun 29

### Club Papi SF Memorial Day Weekend '05 @ Space 550

Club Papi Productions presents "Memorial Day Weekend '05," a special Sunday night event... Monday is a Holiday! Performing live: Latin freestyle queen Debbie DeB singing her hits "When I Hear Music" & "Let the Music Play." 3 dance floors with DJs Marco, Carlitos, & Jorge Terez. Official Tino CD release party in association with Platinum Bullet Records, Granda Entertainment & Universal Music Latino. Free posters, CD singles, albums & more. \$15 cover. 10pm-4am. 21+ w/ID. Info: 415-675-9763; [clubpapi.com](http://clubpapi.com)

### SUPERCHUMBO & Miss Honey Dijon @ Mezzanine

Mezzanine & Industry bring you Memorial Day Weekend, two parties with lots of great DJs & performers. Weekend passes now available. Tonight: Miss Honey Dijon of NYC spinning her native Windy City sound, and Tom Stephan SUPERCHUMBO, whose "transatlantic, twisted sound is an inimitable, seamless blend of deep tribal beats and industrial funk, a journey into the darker side of electronica." — The Collective Agency. \$10 all night (weekend passes \$25). 9pm-4am. Mezzanine, 444 Jessie St. Info: [www.MezzanineSF.com](http://www.MezzanineSF.com)

### Beer, Sex & BLOW III @ Eagle Tavern

Beer, Sex & BLOW III, benefiting: The Center For Sex & Culture & BLOW - Beautiful Lips On Whistles. M.C.s - Manley Lennox & Sister Kitty Catalyst. Special Guest: Dr. Carol Queen. The BLOW Project will present the Annual BLOW (Beautiful Lips On Whistles) Awards (Beautiful Lips On Whistles is a grassroots campaign using the safety whistle as a symbol of empowerment against hate crimes). \$8 beer/beverage but includes dinner. Raffle-o-porno tickets \$2 each; 3 tickets for \$5. Hundred\$ in prizes and give-a-ways. 3-6pm Sun., May 29 Memorial Day Weekend. Eagle Tavern (voted Best Place to get Grooped by a Butt Pirate), 12th & Harrison Streets. Info: [www.SFEagle.com](http://www.SFEagle.com)

### Peaches DJ set @ Coup d'etat, 1015 Folsom

Special DJ set from electro star Peaches. Also DJing: Riton, Fat Truckers, Matt Safer (The Rapture), Gucci Sound System. "Bootie in the Basement" with DJs Adrian & the Mysterious D, Party Ben. "Club Fake" in the front room with Jenny & Omar. \$20. 10pm-5am. 1015 Folsom St. Info: [www.groovetickets.com](http://www.groovetickets.com)



## Mon 30

### Out in the Heartland @ Lexington Club

Film Benefit at the Lexington for "Out in the Heartland." Come out to the Lexington on Memorial Day and help this important film get finished! "Out in the Heartland" is a 25-minute documentary about the personal impact of a campaign to ban gay marriage in Kentucky. It was made by Gretchen Hildebrand while attending Stanford University's Documentary Film and Video Program. See parts of this film as well as a "The California State Recall - Folsom Street Style" a short film by Erica Milsom and Rebecca Weissner. Drink up! Proceeds from the bar during 4-6pm benefit the film! Mon., May 30, 4-6pm at The Lexington Club, corner of 19th & Lexington (Mission District).

## Tue 31

### Mutilated Mannequins @ Bottom of the Hill

Rock out with queer death-metal band Mutilated Mannequins ("The beats are machine generated. The guitar is sleazy, sex stained distortion, and the keys are like a greased-up cock sliding in and out. The Mutilated Mannequins mission right now is about manufacturing and selling synthetic sex"). Also playing: Fuck Wolf and Master Moth. \$7. Doors 8:30, show 9pm. Bottom of the Hill, 1233 17th St. @ Missouri. Info: 415-621-4455; www.bottomofthehill.com

## Wed 1

### Meredith Maran @ A Different Light Bookstore

Meredith Maran (meredithmaran.com), along with Angela Watrous, shares 50 Ways to Support Lesbian and Gay Equality. The book includes essays by Candace Gingrich, Margaret Cho, Judy Shepard, Rebecca Walker, and leaders of organizations including the ACLU, Amnesty International USA, GLAAD, Human Rights Campaign, and PFLAG; it is a compendium of personal stories, each promoting understanding while suggesting simple actions. Free. 7pm. 489 Castro St. Info: 415-431-0891.

### Hush Up, Sweet Charlotte @ Lorraine Hansberry Theatre

Preview: Make It So Productions presents International Drag Superstars Matthew Martin as "Charlotte" and Varla Jean Merman (aka Jeffery Robertson) as "Miriam" in Hush Up, Sweet Charlotte, directed by Matthew Martin, a side-splitting parody of the original book & cult film Hush...Hush, Sweet Charlotte (1964) which starred Bette Davis and Olivia DeHavilland. Cast includes André C. André, Michael Sousa, Sandra Schlechter, Erika Atkinson, Vince Calabrese, Woody Clar, and Kai Brothers. \$20 previews (June 1-3); \$27-\$32 other nights (\$5 off students, seniors, groups of 10). Opening Night Gala on Sat., June 4. 8pm (2pm Sun.). Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, 620 Sutter St. at Mason (Union Square). Tix/info: 415-474-8800; TIX Union Square; ticketweb.com. Info: www.makeitsoproductions.org

### Sony Holland

@ Empire Plush Room  
Jazz vocalist Sony Holland (www.sonyholland.com) performs a CD release show with new songs (by award winning composer Jerry Holland) about the city, including "Polk Street Girls," "I Was No Angel Myself" (set on Haigh Street), and "Kissing You On The Street" (set in Union Square). Featuring Ken Muir on Piano and long-time Benny Goodman sideman Al Obidinski on bass. \$20 & \$25. 8pm June 1, 2, 3 & 4. Empire Plush Room, York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. Tix/info: 415-885-2800; www.plushroom.com



Sony Holland jazzes up the Empire Plush Room. See Wednesday.



"(Yet) Another Hole in the Head Film Festival" — (Y)AHFFF — kicks off 8 nights of horror, sci-fi & fantasy. See Thursday.

### Storm Florez/Charlie Anders @ GenderEnders

This month's GenderEnders features Charlie Anders, publisher of other (the magazine of pop culture and politics for the new outcasts), and author of *The Lazy Crossdresser* (Greenery Press, 2002) and her latest, *Choir Boy*, just out from Soft Skull Press. Writer/musician Storm Florez has released a solo album, *Standing Between the Day and Night* and is the author of *Pussyboy Chronicle*. Open mic for folks of all genders, sexualities & identities. Hosted by musician/writer Julia Serano. \$5-\$7 sliding scale; only \$3 for open mic performers. Wed., June 1 at 8pm. All Ages! Femina Potens, 465 South Van Ness (at 16th St.).

### Myths & Meanings

#### @ New College of California

Editors and publishers from the alternative press will speak at New College of California in four free events, May 31-June 3, as part of "Myths & Meanings: An Interdisciplinary Summer Intensive Bridging Writing, the Arts, & the Sacred." Today (Wed., June 1, from 7-9pm, New College and Intensive faculty will present a series of brief readings and/or performances. 7p.m. at 777 Valencia Street. Updates/room locations at www.newcollege.edu

## Thu 2

### 3DB Trivia

#### @ Three Dollar Bill Café

3DB Trivia, a night of fierce competition where participants match wits and wield their mastery of the mundane. Bring your friends, form a team and compete with others for fabulous prizes. The evening will be broken into rounds of questions, including audio and visual clues displayed on the café's plasma TV. Topics will be wide-ranging, from popular culture and SF history to science and the paranormal. Open to everyone. Food and drink available, including beer and wine. Thu, June 2 at 7:30pm. 1800 Market St. Info: threedollarbill.com

### Revival Bingo @ MCC-SF

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence present their infamous "Revival Bingo!" This month's theme: "June Cleaver Bingo: Blood on the Crinolines," a spoof on the famous "Leave It To Beaver" TV Show of the '50s. Put on your pearls and dust off your biggest kitchen knife because June has gone INSANE! Funds benefit The SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band. Prize for best costume! Gametime: 7pm Thu., June 2. \$15 for one set of cards (eight rounds of bingo), \$5 for each additional set. Cards can be purchased at the door, at All American Boy (463 Cas-

tro St.) or online at Acteva.com. Purchase cards in advance to insure you will be seated. MCC Church, 150 Eureka St. Info: www.theisisters.org

### (Y)AHFFF @ Roxie Cinema

Launch Party: SF Indie presents "(Yet) Another Hole in the Head Film Festival," 8 nights of horror, sci-fi & fantasy, featuring 21 films from six countries, offering a week-plus of Egyptian gods, Godzilla, satanists, bloodsucking parasitic monsters, angry ghosts, clones, maniacs, spider women, assassins, samurai werewolves, zombies and more. Tonight's kickoff party at Roxie Cinema, "The Rock & Roll Horror Show," screens the classic Vampire Circus (unedited & uncult), followed by live music from local bands Godz of Rock and The Hellbillies. \$12 opening & closing nights (June 2 & 9); \$9 all other screenings. Roxie, 3117 16th St.; Victoria, 2961 16th St.; Rickshaw, 155 Fell St. Tix/info: 415-820-3907; www.holehead.org

### Kate Mulgrew/Tea At Five @ Marines Memorial Theatre

Preview: Kate Mulgrew (Star Trek: Voyager) stars as legendary actress Katharine Hepburn in Matthew Lombardo's *Tea At Five*, a one-woman play directed by John Tillingier. \$38-\$58 (\$35 for previews). Previews begin Thu., June 2; opening night on Tue., June 7. 8pm. Run thru June 19. Tue.-Fri. at 8pm; Sat. at 2pm & 8pm; Sun. at 2pm. 609 Sutter St., 2nd Floor. Tix: 415-771-6900; ticketmaster.com

### Queer Beats @ YBCA

Reading/discussion: *Queer Beats: How the Beats Turned America on to Sex*, with editor/scholar Regina Marler and Bay Area contributors Kirk Read and Daphne Gottlieb. Queer Beats traces, for the first time, the queer pulse throughout the Beats' writings, from William S. Burroughs's *Naked Lunch* and Allen Ginsberg's wistful, boy-loving sex poems to Jack Kerouac's hero-worship of Neal Cassidy. Free. Thu., June 2, 6:30pm at Yerba Buena Center's Education Resource Room. Info: www.ybca.org

### Thursday Nite Live @ Eagle Tavern

Live bands take over the Eagle Tavern every Thursday. Tonight: Riot A-Go-Go; Teenage Harlots; The Mouth Offs; and Gang-Way! 9pm. 398 12th St. Info: 415-626-0880; www.sfeagle.com

### Quickie Fest

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### Alone Together

#### @ Gallery Lounge

Opening reception: "Alone Together," a Pride Month group show of four queer men with four divergent points of view: Casey Paine, Christopher Stout, Matt O'Neill, and Matt Pipes. Bonus show in the back by Christopher Stout and Matt Pipes exploring the sacred and profane. Show runs June 2-27. Reception Thu., June 2, 7-10pm. Closing Reception Friday June 24, 7-10pm. The Gallery Lounge, 510 Brannan St. Info: www.thegallerylounge.com

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# Toying with my Affection

## Or, Song of the Dildo, Pt. 2

by John Karr

If a guy sporting titclamps and a dildo sounds like a double whammy to you, you should check out Gemini Studios. The banner on the box of *Best Damn Dildo Movie #1* proclaims, "Hot Str8 Guys Hard Up for \$\$\$ Stuff Their Hot Holes." While the description is apt, the title is hyperbolic. The movie is a sampler of three- to five-minute clips taken from each of decidedly amateur filmmaker Mark Gemini's hour-long sessions with 18 different guys. It's a good intro to Gemini's obsessions, letting us choose our favorite guys as it throws at us emblematic poses and climactic moments from their solo films.

Gemini's stuff is like the porn sequence in *Fame*, in which a dirty old pornographer in a dingy studio hangs his fetish on a model. These home movies are appalling/appealing, stamped by the studio's clutter, the model's docile passivity toward being used but what-the-hell, and Gemini's lack of finesse while single mindedly pursuing the key images that push his button. If

your trip lines up with his, you'll be sucked into this perversely voyeuristic, old time, under-the-counter porn.

Gemini offers an assortment of heavily tattooed white trash and jailbirds, construction workers, surfer boys, and muscle hunks. Most are surprisingly attractive and undeniably masculine. With titclamps dangling on their chests, they lean back against some cushions with hands behind their heads, elongating their torsos and exposing the penetration of their assholes. Only one quibbles with the titclamps, and it's surprising how adept, or at least accommodating most of them are at anal



stuffing. Since when does rough trade come with an open hole? Revelatory pics at [www.AMVC.com](http://www.AMVC.com)

### Personable dildos

Defiant Productions' two volumes of *Where the Sun Don't Shine* are certainly the most personable

dildo solos available. Almost all of director Joe Serna's mostly str8 skaterboys have

pierced tongues, wear their baseball caps backwards, and watch het

porn

while poking their puckeroos. Those girls whimpering in the background may be an authenticating factor for you, but theirs isn't the song I've got in my heart. Still, Serna's boys are so friendly and eager to please. They welcome us at the beginning, and at the end hope we enjoyed their show. It's a first time experience for most, and they tell us how it felt in brief post-orgasm interviews (most like the ribbed toy best). I found the boys in volume one to be both more attractive and more active. Especially Jamie, who flips his legs over his head, and with the dildo sticking up outta his butt, sucks

his cock 'til a big load splats onto his tongue. The boys in volume two are not quite as engaging, although a beefy blond lays a heavy verbal rap on us while diggin' around in his hole. And there's Adam, a Defiant regular who is definitely a star. Handsome, ripped, and self-assured, he's also into his ass big time. Since his initial Defiant appearances, he's graduated to a healthy sized toy. When his sphincter clamps around this thick baby, his handsome cock gets rock hard and jets a big load. Adam. Wow. [www.pornteam.com](http://www.pornteam.com)

### The pay-off

*Deep Diggin' Dildos #3* is the pay-off. It's the most playful new dildo movie, and the most gay. The series has been directed by Edward James for Bacchus productions. Volumes 1 and 2 had all-black casts. Volume 3 is all white. Neither the box nor the movie itself names the performers. But regardless of identification, the title is accurate. Each of the six guys in this 90 minute movie do a lot of sincere plugging. They start in underwear, work up their cocks, suck those dildos like they were starving, and bounce around on them like—well, like they were having a whale of a time. These guys do not watch porn to stimulate their sexuality—they are porn, and stimulate themselves and us with their thorough dildomania. The guys include a redhead whose tight cock ring makes his cock and balls pop, and a tanned guy with a swimmer's build who starts out in a Speedo and soon reveals a shaved crotch. There's a country boy who's got that Lyle Lovette lankiness, the movie's biggest and hardest dick, a slow and by far the deepest, most grinding technique, and, despite the gregariousness of his play, the most endurance. Deservedly, he gets the most time. If choosing only one of the recent dildo titles, I'd go for the pooper-pluggin' party that's *Deep Diggin' Dildos #3*. Go to [www.filmco.com](http://www.filmco.com)



### Karnal Knowledge

## Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

been: "My friendships are based on knowing and interacting with people who know as much as I do or more — preferably more". My friendship with Robert Davolt was like that. We learned from each other, we respected each other and we both know that our ultimate goal was identical. For this relationship, I am thankful. In my mind and memory is a chapter entitled "The Most Unforgettable Character I Ever Met and Respected".

Of course, that would be Robert Davolt.

### New icon coming your way

Jason Hendrix passes into IML history this coming Sunday and I would like to wish him well in all his future endeavors. His year with the title was fun and invigorating. Thanks Jason, you are a delight and you served your community well.

See you all next week with the IML results and all the "dish" that's fit to print. ▼



IML Weekend in Chicago also has an International Mr. Bootblack competition. Here's Larry Laird, Central California Bootblack 2005 from Fresno, who will be in the IMrBB Class of 2005. Note those big hands and that big smile!

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# Whale of a tale in the Castro

*Moby Dick is a classic, classy Castro gay bar*

by Mark des Jardins  
and Mike Sher

A hoy, ye mates! Landlubbers and those on the high seas in search of mates or adventure are all welcome at Moby Dick, located on 18th Street at Hartford, one block east of Castro Street. In 1977, it acquired its current name when Victor Swedosh bought the business. He sold it in 2002. The current business partners, Joe Capelletti and Doug Murphy, have owned it for several years. Doug was their bartender for 10 years before buying the place with Joe.

Moby Dick has been a favorite spot for tourists and locals alike for 25 years. The building was constructed in 1872. Its second floor houses three apartments. The bar's front shows a Victorian influence, blending into the architecture of the neighborhood. The dark green awning with the bar's name in bold white letters hangs over the corner front doors and tall windows along each side, giving patrons an easy view of the pedestrian traffic for which the Castro is famous.

On entering the bar through

the double front doors, the 25-foot wood bar looms. Behind the bar stands a 250-gallon saltwater tank. Herman Melville, author of the American classic novel *Moby Dick* (published in 1851), might have known the tank's sea-faring population. Here an eel, clownfish, lionfish and saltwater grouper can be found. On the 18th Street end of the bar, a 5' extension; on the opposite end, a 7' extension. Around the bar are a dozen dark-wood bar-chairs, all with metal reinforced footrests.

The floor space is divided into two levels. In the back is the gaming area. In the front, the Castro win-

dow view and the bar proper. As a dividing point between the two, a large, High-Definition LCD screen plays contemporary music. The latest videos pound out the current rage in popular music. A smaller HD LCD-screen also faces inward toward the standing-room area. On the wall opposite the main bar, three neatly gold-framed mirrors hang high. Below these, a wood shelf low enough to be used for seating is against the wall, with a 15-foot brass footrest. Between this area and the main bar are two small elbow-height ta-



Have a beer and hook a fish at Moby Dick, a bar with a big aquarium.

bles, 2' in diameter, embedded in the floor with black wrought-iron poles, each encircled with a footrest, also black and wrought-iron.

## Pool cues

Deeper into the bar, up the four steps nicely fronted in copper to the second level, are a touch-video game and a slightly under-regulation-sized pool table. Behind the back wall are four (that's right, four!) pinball machines.

Above the pinball machines is a neon logo of the bar.

But without the bar's catering to a drinking crowd, it just wouldn't make it in the Castro. They sell a lot of beer, Joe and Doug both admit. The beer of the month is \$3 a pint. They have 11 draft beers and pear cider on tap. Monday-Saturday, there's a 2-for-1 special on frozen Cuervo Margaritas; on Sunday, the 2-for-1 special is Sex on the Beach. The Margaritas are made from scratch in 15-liter

batches from a secret recipe. And it's hard to beat the prices of their Happy Hour, Monday-Friday 3 p.m.-8 p.m., when domestic beer and well drinks are \$2, and imported beer is \$2.75.

AOL CityGuide awarded Moby Dick "City's Best 2005" for being the best gay bar in San Francisco. The bar highlights local artists monthly, who display their art for sale on the walls. Money for charities is also raised with the charities-sponsoring Beer Busts on Saturdays (the Castro Lions Club is one). If you go to their website ([www.mobydicksf.com](http://www.mobydicksf.com)) you can get on their mailing list, and at Christmas you can print out a ticket for free drinks. Their softball team is the Whalers.

Captain Ahab may have had a grudge against Moby Dick in the novel, but you'll have a hard time coming up with a reason not to come back. When you walk down 18th St. from Castro and spot the bar, you might say what seafarers in Melville's novel said when they spotted a whale, "Thar she blows!" ▼

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## Woman of many faces

*Mid-period Joan Crawford out on DVD*

by Tavo Amador

Joan Crawford (1904-77) made her first film in '25, became a star in '28, and completed her last picture in '70. Many baby boomers remember her as a campy queen of cheap horror movies, but that was only the last, regrettable stage of her remarkable career. She began as an ingénue, became the embodiment of F. Scott Fitzgerald's sex-crazed flapper, then epitomized Hollywood glamour in the '30s while playing working-class girls climbing the social ladder. She shifted to noisier melodramas in the '40s, then essayed stylish, middle-aged women preyed upon by unscrupulous younger men in the '50s, before succumbing to the scream-and-scare genre following her success in *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?* The *Joan Crawford Collection* DVD set focuses on her third incarnation, from 1939-50, when she left MGM for Warner Bros.

Crystal Allen in *The Women* ('39) was Crawford's first unsympathetic part and a triumph. After having been named "box-office poison" in '38, she needed a hit, and this was it. Directed by openly gay George Cukor, she is funny and caustic as the perfume salesgirl who steals Stephen Haines from his society wife, Mary (Norma Shearer, Crawford's major rival at MGM). Clare Booth Luce's play about upper-class divorcees falters during Shearer's domestic scenes, but lives up whenever Crawford, Rosalind Russell (as the vicious Sylvia), Mary Boland (hilarious as the Countess), Paulette Goddard, and



the young Joan Fontaine appear. The dressing room confrontation between Crystal and Mary is superb, and Crawford's last line is among the most memorable in film history. Although the entire cast is female, the ads rightly claimed, "It's all about men."

Mildred Pierce ('45) marked Crawford's extraordinary comeback at Warners, winning a Best Actress Oscar for her memorable performance as a housewife turned successful restaurateur, but plagued with the most ungrateful child (Ann Blyth) in movie history. Michael Curtiz directed this terrific mix of soap opera and noir murder mystery. Zachary Scott and Jack Carson are the men who do Mildred wrong. Eve Arden, as her confidante, has the best line. "Alligators have the right idea. They eat their young," Crawford's stormy relationship with her real life daughter, Christina, gives the film unintended irony.

In *Humoresque* ('46), Crawford plays Helen Wright, a rich,

married society woman who drinks too much and falls for working-class violin prodigy Paul Boray (virile John Garfield). She doesn't appear until 30 minutes into the movie, but it's her film anyway. Clifford Odets and Zachary Gold's screenplay, based on Fanny Hurst's story, is loaded with pungent dialogue. When Boray is rude, Helen cracks, "Bad manners. An infallible sign of genius." Class differences prove too much for the lovers, alas. At her beachhouse, listening on the radio to her beloved playing, Helen ends it all by walking into the ocean to the strains of Wagner's *Liebestod* from *Tristan and Isolde*. With Oscar Levant, one of the screen's best metrosexuals, Crawford's old MGM designer, Adrian, created her stunning gowns. Ernest Haller's noir-like cinematography adds to the glamorous suffering, and the star never looked more beautiful. A classic weepie and a hit, but less well-known than other Crawford vehicles.

## Breakdown place

In *Possessed* ('47), Crawford is Louise Howell, a nurse caring for the invalid wife of wealthy Dean Graham (Raymond Massey). She loves architect David Sutton (Van Heflin). Louise's paranoid patient dies and David dumps her, she's far too needy and smothering. Dean proposes marriage, and a desperate Louise accepts. David is hired to work for Dean, rekindling Louise's thwarted passions. Dean's oldest daughter (Geraldine Brooks) falls for David, which really freaks out poor Louise, so she

next page ►



## MUSIC

# Girlymen and queer others

by Gregg Shapiro

With the continuing crossover success of the Scissor Sisters and the growing popularity of Jinx Tintin, queer bands seem to be in demand. Below are some examples of the current crop of discs by queer artists that deserve to be played loud and proud.

**Outmusic** Award-winning trio Girlyman follows up its acclaimed 2003 full-length debut *Remember Who I Am* with *Little Star* (Daemon). Sticking with the formula that has earned them so much attention, Doris Muramatsu, Ty (Tylan) Greenstein and Nate Borofsky keep the harmonies tight, pure and sweet from start to finish. It begins with the radio-ready pop of "On the Air," continues with the love thief's story in "Young James Dean," and goes on through the front-porch stomp of "Kittery Tide" and "I Know Where You Are," which name-checks Joni Mitchell.

Described as "folk pop torch tronic," the 11 songs on *Corvidae* (Double Salt) by Myshkin's Ruby Warblers are timeless country-jazz numbers with the occasional synthetic beat that places them as firmly in today as tomorrow. Myshkin's steamy blues belt gives songs such as the finger-snapper "Gypsytown," the whiskey-soaked toe-tapper "Drunk" and the erratic beat-box of "Saving the Day" their own distinct personalities. Like a queer Shiver, Myshkin and company are unique unto themselves.

Easily one of the most unusual discs I've heard in a while, *Maybe Maybe Maybe Baby* (Luv-A-Lot) by gay male/straight female duo Cheese on Bread is nothing short of delightful. Blending harmonies and humor, Sara Fitzsimmons and Dan Fishback sing about the lack of eligible guys ("Where the F\*ck Are They?"), regretted kisses ("The Kiss Song"), communication breakdowns ("Modern Art Gallery"), diets ("Stepping Out of Ketosis"), mating rituals ("Biological Romance"), lust ("Structure of a Crush"), and fashion victims ("You're Just a Gucci Model"), all in their inimitable alt-folk style.

"Brother," the irresistible opening track on *Grab that Gun* (Mint) by The Organ can also be heard on the soundtrack to *The*

*Word's* second season. I'd been hoping for a female-fronted queer entry into the new wave revival scene, and I'm so glad that The Organ fills that bill. Add a New Order-like guitar and insistent beat to a lead vocalist who manages to be both detached and emotional, two new wave traits that translate well, and you have the makings of an exciting new new wave band.

More than 20 years ago, queer singer/songwriter Adele Bertei could be heard singing on the Thomas Dolby hit single "Hyperactive." After releasing a solo disc in the late '80s which yielded the single "Green Shirt," Bertei was somewhat scarce. That is, until now. As the lead singer of the no-wave trio Anubian Lights, Bertei has come back strong. Their album *Phantoscope* (Rhythmbank) opens with Bertei wailing up a blizzard on "Wild Winter." "New Wildlife" throws in a Latin beat for extra motion.

Here is some interesting queer rock music trivia. Hetero Oakland rock band The Matches, once known as The Locals, called their most recent album *E. Von Dahl Killed The Locals* because Yvonne Doll, lead singer of queer Chicago-based jam band The Locals, sued for copyright infringement and won. *Eatin' Paste* (localrock.com) finds the band stripped down to a trio (Doll, Christy Nunes and EJ Dawson) punk-rocking like nobody's business on the opening track, "Psychic Night at the Big Boy."

New York scenester Dean Johnson and his band The Velvet Mafia have returned with a new disc, *Cheap But Not Free* (velvetmafia.theband.com). With some of the same band members found on the band's '98 album *We Know Where You Live*, The Velvet Mafia is as cheeky and in your face as ever. From the B-52's homage "The Girl from Planet Muff" to the queercore punk of "The Pretty One," the gay metal of "Testosterone," the sweet, suggestive "Make a Mess" and the unabashedly graphic "The Big Johnson," The Velvet Mafia rocks the house.

Dutch trio Bambix is a breath of fresh queer punk air on their album *What's in a Name* (Daemon). On their second EP *Through the Opaque Air* (Stroll), queer quartet The Slow Signal Fade displays a fondness for shoegazer rock. ▼

## Joan Crawford

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kills him. Her subsequent collapse and stay in a mental hospital is graphically portrayed. When Crawford has a breakdown, it registers 10.0 on the Richter Scale. The movie was a smash, and the star earned an Oscar nomination for her intense performance. The title is the old term for insanity, and shouldn't be confused with a '31 film of the same name starring Crawford and Clark Gable, about a prominent politician and his gorgoness mistress.

*The Damned Don't Cry* ('50) is one of the maddest melodramas ever made, with Crawford combining many elements of her screen past: She's Ethel White-

head, a would-be Emma Bovary whose only child dies, spurring her to find excitement in the big city. She becomes a successful model, then a gangster's (oily David Brian) mistress. He plays Pygmalion, transforming her into Lorna Hansen Forbes, heiress and society woman. She loves him, but he uses her to tempt one of his hoodlum rivals (macho Steve Cochran) to his doom. Ethel/Lorna decides she really loves the intended victim, which doesn't please the boss. Fleeing the man who recreated her, Ethel/Lorna returns to her hometown. The finale is ambiguous (about the only thing in this preposterous movie that is) but Crawford takes it all very seriously indeed. A classic, unintended howler. ▼

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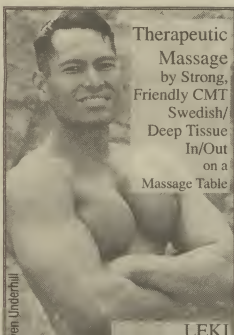
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In/Out on a  
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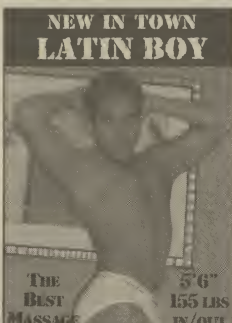
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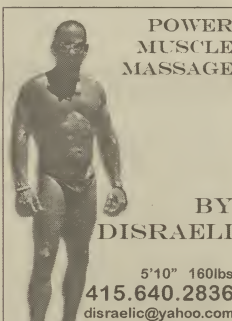
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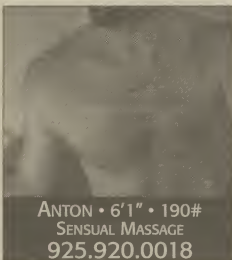
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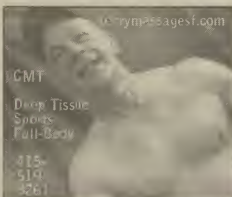
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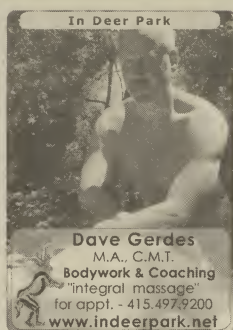
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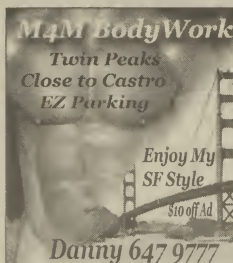
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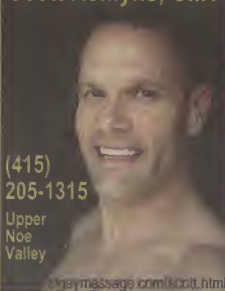
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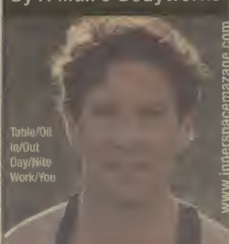
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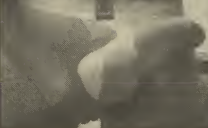
HEADLINES FOR OUR ANNUAL GAY PRIDE ISSUE:  
DISPLAY AD: FRIDAY, JUNE 10TH @ 12:00PM  
CLASSIFIED AD: FRIDAY, JUNE 10TH @ 1:00PM  
CLASSIFIED ADS: MONDAY, JUNE 20TH @ 12:00PM  
STAY TUNED FOR THE PRIDE ISSUE: JUNE 24TH



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Italian Top \* 6' 170#

Reliable  
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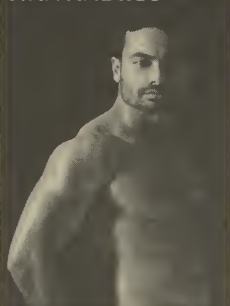
Escort  
Massage  
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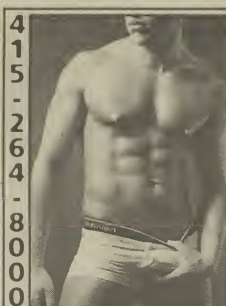


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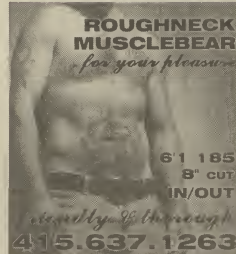
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SUNDAY

MAY 29

8 - MIDNIGHT

\$5

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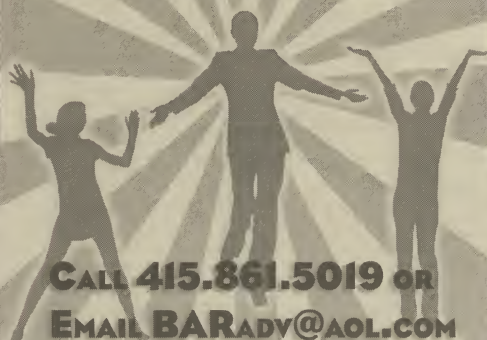
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DEADLINES FOR OUR ANNUAL GAY PRIDE ISSUE:

DISPLAY ADS: FRIDAY, JUNE 10TH @ 12:00PM

CLASSIFIED AND PERSONAL ADS: FRIDAY, JUNE 17TH @ 3:00PM

CLASSIFIED LINE ADS: MONDAY, JUNE 20TH @ 12:00PM

STREET DATE FOR THE PRIDE ISSUE: JUNE 23, 2005

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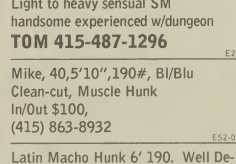
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Actual model pictured.

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LINE IS FRIDAY JUNE 17TH  
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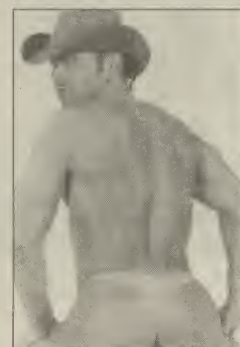
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**PARTING GLANCE**

**El Cerrito BART May 17**  
Wed, Noon You: On Your Cell Br/Br Speaking  
Portuguese Me: Cowboy Hat, Wit, Pants, Gotee,  
Too Shy To Say Hi. Let's Do Coffee — Bob  
☎ 71555

**Giants Vs. Nationals - 1st Game**  
We Exchanged Many Glances On Muni On The  
Way To The Game. Me: Giants Jacket And Cap,  
Blonde Mustache. You: Wranglers, Boots With  
A Great Smile. Let's Get Past Glances!  
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**SEEKING RELATIONSHIP**

**Sweet Husky Huggable Mini Bear**  
ISO Friendship Or More With HIV- GWM, GHM,  
40-52. I Enjoy Movies, Gardening, Cooking, The  
Ocean. Me: GWM 40's, 5'9", S & P/Blue.  
☎ 71553

**Tall Handsome Sexy Nature Lover**  
Kind, Easygoing, Playful, Masculine, Cheerful,  
Nice Smile Seeks Similar 25-50, Ongoing Pas-  
sionate Foreplay! 6'2" 190lbs. Hairly, Dark  
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☎ 71543

**SEEKING ADVENTURE**

**Downtown Oakland Black Man, 52**  
5'9", 180, Balding, Moustache. Seeking A Ma-  
ture, Orally Talented Gentleman (Clean Shaven Or  
Moustache Only) To Service Me 9am-2pm. De-  
scription/Direct Contact Phone # Required.  
Thanks. ☎ 71556

**Adonis Black Ex-Marine**  
Cuddly + Physically Sensational. Seeking Mature  
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Looking To Learn Different J.O. Techniques w/In-  
Shape Guys Under 35yo Who Are Into Lube &  
Videos.  
☎ 71552

**Balls**  
Balls Stretched While Your Moan, Also, Hand  
Tapped. Dying To See You Write A Little.  
☎ 71551

**Attractive Masc. Latin Bottom**  
You Are 25-40, Latin, White Or Asian - Not A  
Bar Person, Versatile Or Top Masc. + Slim. I'm  
Early 40's, Body Builder, Bottom, Bubble Ass.  
Uncut 6" Hairly Legs. No Drugs. Safe Sex Only.  
☎ 71549

**Throw My Legs Up!**  
I'm Asian With Nice Nipples And A Great Ass,  
Seeking Attractive Masculine Buffed White Top  
For A Hot Time.  
☎ 71542

**Submissive Bottom HIV+ ISO**  
Aggressive Dominant Top. Two Men, One Goal -  
Pleasure!  
☎ 71548

**Spank Your Butt**  
Hot, Masculine Top, 38, 5'11" 175#, Seeks Well  
Built Bottom With Nice Ass For Over The Knee  
Spanking, Role Playing And Pleading Your Ass.  
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**Guy For Jacuzzi & Gym Shower Photos**  
Swimmer Wants To Pose With Lots Of Other  
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Room. Not Into Gay Sex.  
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**LESBIAN**

**Partner Search**  
Working-Class Single Monogamous Lesbian, Any  
Size, Race, Ability, Between 30-40 Sought For  
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Heading, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

**MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. **One ad per customer per week.**



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ISSUE DATE THURSDAY, JUNE 23RD

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PUBLIC  
PLACES**

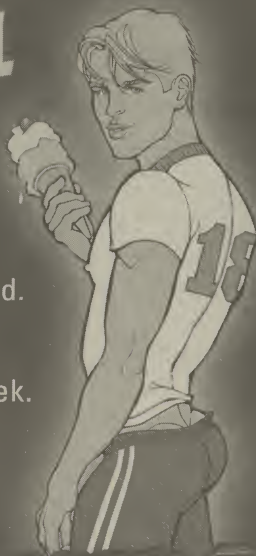
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pre-screened.  
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available  
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members  
and five  
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at all  
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Available in  
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Find  
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wherever  
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BAY AREA REPORTER

PERSONALS ORDER FORM

Indicate  
Type Style  
Here ▼

X-BOLD Stops Here ▼

BOLD Stops Here ▼

CAPS Stop Here ▼

Regular Stops Here ▼

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NOON on MONDAY.  
Payment must accompany ad.  
No ads taken over the  
telephone. If you have a  
question, call 415.861.5019.  
Display advertising rates  
available upon request.

## RATES

First line, Regular 6.00  
All subsequent lines 4.00  
CAPS double price  
BOLD double price  
X-BOLD triple price

## PAYMENT

- ☐ Cash
- ☐ Personal Check
- ☐ Money Order
- ☐ Visa
- ☐ MasterCard

Minimum \$10 charge  
on Visa and MasterCard.

## CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
3-Digit Security Code \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
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